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latest in line
of tough guys**

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Sgt. Anthony Alvarado, a launcher chief with Company A, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, adjusts his headset to talk to crewmembers as he double-checks firing instructions for practice rockets, like the one shown, at a range near Idar-Oberstein, Germany. Soldiers in the 1st AD, the Army's last armored division, must be trained to wage two completely different fights — a nebulous counterinsurgency such as Iraq, and a large force-on-force conflict on a defined battlefield.

PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

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States

Coast Guard crash: The Coast Guard in Alaska suspended its search for six people lost for three days in the frigid Bering Sea after the crash of a rescue helicopter that had plucked them from a broken freighter.

Searchers covered 227 miles of coastline and 550 square miles of ocean before suspending the search Friday evening, said Rear Adm. James Olson, commander of the Coast Guard in Alaska.

Peterson trial: Jurors in the Scott Peterson murder trial were sequestered in a hotel Saturday after the judge agreed they could take the weekend off from their sentencing deliberations. They resume their work Monday.

The six men and six women in Redwood City, Calif., have spent 8½ hours since Thursday deciding whether the former fertilizer salesman should live or die for killing his pregnant wife, Laci, and the 8-month-old fetus she was carrying.

Frankel sentencing: A federal judge in New Haven, Conn., sentenced former fugitive financier Martin Frankel to more than 16 years in prison on Friday for devising a plot to cheat insurance companies out of \$200 million to pay for his luxurious lifestyle.

In 1999, Frankel triggered an international manhunt when he disappeared from his mansion in Greenwich. He was arrested in Germany four months later.

Jackson molestation case: Fingerprint belonging to both Michael Jackson and the boy accusing him of child molestation were found on pornographic magazines seized from Jackson's Neverland ranch last year, the Santa Barbara News-Press reported Saturday, citing sources it did not identify.

If the reported evidence is admitted during Jackson's trial, prosecutors would be expected to argue that the fingerprints were proof that Jackson showed the boy pornographic literature before molesting him. But the defense could question whether the entertainer knew the boy had been leaving through the magazines.

D.C.-area sniper: A judge in Seattle has signed off on a \$2.5 million settlement between relatives of Washington, D.C.-area sniper victims and a gun shop and weapon maker connected to the shootings.

In the settlement reached in September, Bull's Eye Shooter Supply of Tacoma agreed to pay \$2 million to two survivors and six families related to the victims of snipers John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo. Gun manufacturer Bushmaster Firearms of Windham, Maine, agreed to pay the remaining \$500,000.

Bushmaster made the weapon used in the 2002 shootings, which the paper reportedly stole from Bull's Eye.

Puerto Rico governor race: Puerto Rico has been wrangling for more than a month over the disputed governor's election with no victor in sight, reopening deep divisions over the island's status and sending the fight to U.S. soil.



Philippines storm recovery: Army troops and residents carry relief goods Friday as they walk through debris in the typhoon-ravaged town of Real, Quezon province, east of Manila. Volunteer rescuers have ended their search for survivors Saturday after finding four people from the rubble of a building that collapsed after a landslide following a powerful storm that killed 893 people. Officials say 480 still are missing.

Arguments are scheduled to begin Monday in the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston on whether the island's Supreme Court or a U.S. district judge should have jurisdiction over thousands of disputed ballots that favor pro-commonwealth candidate Anibal Acevedo Vila of Puerto Rico's Popular Democratic Party.

'Siegfried & Roy' tiger attack: The U.S. Department of Agriculture has ticketed the company responsible for the exotic animals used in the Las Vegas "Siegfried & Roy" show, ending a lengthy investigation into the near-fatal tiger attack on illusionist Roy Horn.

S&R Productions received the citation Dec. 6, more than 14 months after the bloody attack that left Horn partially paralyzed, USDA spokesman Jim Rogers told The Associated Press on Friday.

Rogers declined to discuss why the company received the citation, but said it does not carry any penalties.

World

Myanmar prisoner release: Myanmar's ruling junta announced Saturday in Yangon that more than 5,000 prisoners have had their sentences suspended and will be freed from various prisons around the country, in the third such release in less than a month.

A brief announcement on the evening news programs of state radio and television said a third batch of 5,070 prisoners whose detentions were ruled irregular or improper have had their sentences reduced and will be freed.

Sudan peace talks: Delegates from warring parties in Sudan's Darfur region gathered Friday for peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria, where mediators hope to reach a deal to end violence that has left tens of thousands dead and nearly 2 million homeless.

Previous peace negotiations have failed to stop the fighting, and African Union mediators said Friday that attacks continue in Sudan's western region, while serious problems remain unresolved.

Representatives from Darfur's two main rebel groups had already arrived in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, and Sudan's government delegation on its way.

Military

Mutual fund pressures: Securities regulators are planning sanctions against a company that sold high-fee mutual funds to military officers, sources familiar with the situation said Friday. Some big fund companies said they may reconsider the "contractual plan" funds.

Earlier this year, House members voiced outrage at sales pressure that some companies have put on military personnel, many of whom are being sent to war zones, to buy what are said to be overpriced, unsuitable mutual funds and life insurance.

In October, the House passed legislation aimed at protecting military recruits and officers from salespeople promoting such insurance and fund plans. The Senate did not act on the legislation.

Lyndie England case: The case against Pfc. Lyndie England, charged with abusing Iraqi detainees at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison, will be resolved at Fort Hood, Texas, not Fort Bragg, N.C., the Army said Friday.

The move is being made to bring together several cases stemming from the prisoner abuse scandal, including those of England, Sgt. Charles Graner, Sgt. Javai Davis, and Sgt. Sabrina Harman, the Army said in a statement.

England

War on terrorism

British troops in Baghdad: Two hundred members of Britain's Black Watch regiment returned to their English base Saturday after a contentious deployment to back up U.S. forces in Iraq.

The soldiers — the first batch of about 850 due to return over the next few days — were reunited with their families at Warminster barracks in southwest England after a six-month tour of duty in Iraq.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Correction

A statement in Saturday's edition in a story about U.S. vehicles in the Mideast was attributed to the wrong spokesman. The Army's John Paul Boyce made the statement.

Comics, horoscopes and advice
every day in Stars and Stripes

POD increases drug testing of deployed

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The military is increasing drug testing of its forces serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, in part out of concern that troops will turn to drugs because of the stress of combat, Pentagon officials said Friday.

Drug use is low in the military and primarily limited to marijuana, said Mary Beth Long, the deputy assistant defense secretary for counter narcotics. She spoke with the American Forces Press Service, an internal military news service.

Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq to be subject to new measures

But concerns about drug use center on Afghanistan, which has become the world's leading provider of opium since the U.S.-led campaign that drove the Taliban from power three years ago. Opium poppies can be refuted into heroin; last year, Afghanistan accounted for 87 percent of the world's opium supply.

"One of the lessons that we have learned from the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan [in the late 1970s through the late 1980s] is

that those troops went back to Russia with a drug problem," Long told the news service. "Our forces are obviously very, very different. We certainly have no expectation that they would suffer the same kind of issues."

But the increased stress of serving in combat areas could drive soldiers to readily available drugs, as happened to some during the Vietnam War, officials said.

In March, the Pentagon cited surveys that said 32 percent of troops stationed at home and around the world reported feeling "a lot" of work-related stress. Almost half said they believed their careers would probably or definitely be damaged if they sought mental health counseling.

The survey also found that cigarette smoking and heavy drinking were on the rise in the military. Use of illicit drugs is holding steady, however, far below the rate for civilians.

Soldier sentenced to 3 years for killing wounded Iraqi teen

Series of attacks leaves six soldiers wounded, at least ten Iraqis dead

BY PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A U.S. soldier was sentenced to three years in prison for killing a severely wounded Iraqi teenager, the military said Saturday, while insurgents staged attacks in several cities, killing at least 10 Iraqis, including three police officers, two Shiite clerics and a judge.

Six American soldiers also were wounded in separate attacks in northern Iraq. Staff Sgt. Johnny M. Horne Jr., 30, of Wilson, N.C., pleaded guilty Friday to one count of unpremeditated murder and one count of soliciting another soldier to commit unpremeditated murder.

His sentencing late Friday included a reduction in rank to private, forfeiture of wages and a dishonorable discharge.

The charges relate to the Aug. 18 killing of a 16-year-old Iraqi male found in a burning truck with severe abdominal wounds sustained during clashes in Baghdad's Sadr City.

A criminal investigator had said during an earlier hearing that the soldiers decided to kill him to "put him out of his misery."

A panel of seven service members late Friday sentenced Horne — who is attached to Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, based in Fort Riley, Kansas — after about four hours of deliberations, the military said Saturday.

Deadly ambushes, suicide car bombings and roadside bomb blasts took place across the country, killing at least 10 Iraqis and wounding six U.S. soldiers.

U.S. soldiers were ambushed late Friday in Ramadi, a hotbed of anti-American violence 70 miles west of Baghdad, by insurgents firing rocket propelled grenades and small arms from the city's hospital and medical academy, the Marines claimed in a statement Saturday.

Insurgents hid inside the Rama-

di General Hospital and Medical College and in nearby areas waiting for the soldiers to move into their ambush zone, said Capt. Bradley Gordin, spokesman for the 1st Marine Division of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

"Some of the muzzle flashes of insurgent firing positions were observed as originating from windows within the hospital," he said.

Officials from both the Ramadi General Hospital and Medical College rejected U.S. claims that they were used in the ambush, but said fighting occurred nearby.

Two Iraqi civilians, including judge Omar Abdul Aziz Rashid, were killed during fighting, but no U.S. casualties were reported.

Separately, police on Saturday found seven bodies apparently killed several days ago and dumped near a highway about 22 miles west of Ramadi.

LT. Col. Ziyad al-Jibouri said the seven didn't look Iraqi, while a hospital official said two Sudanese men asked about the bodies at the morgue. The Sudanese Embassy said it has heard of the grisly finds and sent an official to investigate.

U.S. forces also blew up a large cache of confiscated weapons in Ramadi late Friday. Militants, predominantly from Iraq's Sunni Muslim minority, also continued their attacks against Iraqi security forces and members of the country's majority Shiite community.

Guns killed two Iraqi police men, including a colonel, in an ambush north of Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, on Saturday, U.S. military spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien said.

Two other police colonels were killed in Baghdad's southwestern Sadiyiah neighborhood at 7 a.m. after being ambushed by two cars carrying eight gunmen, an official said on condition of anonymity. The colonels were assigned to the Interior Ministry's criminal intelligence department.



A firefighter clears what is left of a car that exploded as a U.S. military convoy passed by Saturday in the northern city of Mosul, Iraq. No American forces were wounded, witnesses said, but one Iraqi civilian was killed in the blast.

Late Friday, militants killed two policemen, including a captain, and wounded two others while patrolling Baghdad's northern Azamiyah suburb late Friday, police Lt. Mohammed al-Obeidi said.

In the nearby Shula neighborhood, Shiite cleric Salim al-Yaqoubi was killed by gunfire near his house early Saturday, a police spokesman said.

In the central Iraqi city of Samarra, a mortar shell slammed into a car, killing one occupant and injuring another, U.S. military spokesman Master Sgt. Robert Powell said. The attack happened late Friday near a river ferry terminal and one mile from a U.S. military base.

In northern Iraq, a suspected suicide car bomber wounded two U.S. soldiers in Beiji, while two more were wounded in a car bomb blast near Kirkuk, about 62 miles to the north.

Two more U.S. soldiers were wounded by a roadside bomb outside of Hawija, near Kirkuk.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, Dec. 10, 2004, at least 1,286 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,007 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,148 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 898 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two soldiers died Thursday in a helicopter accident in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:
 ■ Marine Pfc. Christopher S. Adlesperger, 20, Albuquerque, N.M.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Kyle J. Renehan, 21, Oxford, Pa.; died Thursday in Kaiserslautern, Germany, from injuries received on Nov. 29 in Iraq's Babil province; assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

■ Army Sgt. Arthur C. Williams, IV, 31, Edgewater, Fla.; died Wednesday in Ramadi, Iraq, from small arms fire; assigned to the 44th Engineer Battalion, 2d Infantry Division, Camp Howze, Korea.

Anaconda armor shop improvises upgrades

Facing perilous roads, battalion's creative welders keep drivers safe

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — Sgt. David Kamm said soldiers had a motto in the days when they drove the dangerous roads of Iraq protected by nothing more than the thin aluminum of their truck cabs: "Mission first, lives second."

Everybody talked about it in the 7th Transportation Battalion, said Kamm, an Army National Guard member from Michigan, who drives a truck as a civilian.

There was no protection from the increasing bullets and roadside bombs. They had no more protection than a trucker rolling from Lansing, Mich., to Des Moines, Iowa.

"Vulnerable? Definitely," said Pvt. Andrew Harbison, another driver from Michigan.

Last week, National Guard soldiers in Kuwait questioned Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld about the lack of armored vehicles as their units prepare to head north into Iraq. On Thursday, Rumsfeld said he expected the Army to do its best to provide adequate armor for all vehicles used in Iraq.

But 11 months and 11 million miles later, the 7th Transportation Battalion out of Fort Bragg, N.C., couldn't wait for the Army upgrade. Its 1,500 soldiers in Iraq had 500 cabs of rolling cinder block Humvees and trucks — with skin nearly as soft as a baby's.

Maj. Mark Paget, the battalion executive officer, said there was no alternative when the battalion's vehicles had to leave Kuwait and drive north last January.

"We came up in soft skin vehicles. And we took hits," he said. "We quickly realized we needed to do something fast."

The battalion began a full-scale upgrade of every vehicle that would leave Anaconda, the supply heart of the mission.

Harbison said, "When we first got here from Kuwait, we were putting [metal] plates on the inside of the doors."

Sheets of Plexiglas were fastened to the outside of the doors, which was enough to stop some shrapnel, he said, but did not provide the type of protection drivers wanted.

Kevlar blast blankets were hung in the backs of truck cabs. More than once, the blankets caught shrapnel headed for the drivers. Mylar covered the windows to prevent the glass from shattering when hit by a bullet or a blast.

"We did this very quickly, in the first 30 days," Paget said.

As the battle against the insurgency in Iraq has progressed, convoys have proved to be a favorite target. More than half of the battle deaths in Iraq have been from the roadside bombs that explode as vehicles pass. Nine deaths are from the 7th Transportation Battalion.

Capt. Michael DeLaughter, battalion maintenance officer, showed off some plates of the metal known commercially as armor.

"We had [Explosive Ordnance Disposal] go out and shoot at this panel," he said.

It took seven bullets from a Squad Automatic Weapon to punch through. And an AK-47 bullet plate barely left a mark.

That convinced the battalion, which began cutting plates and bolting them to doors as fast as possible. The battalion has purchased \$800,000 of the armor plate, which is tough but easy to cut.

To speed the process, a template was made so the armored plates could be cut more quickly.

Kamm said that as the armored plates were being cut in the maintenance shop, the drivers were grabbing them.



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Michael DeLaughter, battalion maintenance officer for the 7th Transportation Battalion at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq, shows a homemade upgrade done to the door of a truck. Faced with driving unarmored vehicles across the dangerous Iraqi roads, members of the battalion began improvising their own armor. "We took the initiative on this," said Maj. Mark Paget, the battalion executive officer. "Nobody ever told us no."

"We went out at night and put them on ourselves," he said.

The 57th Transportation Battalion in Tallil visited Anaconda, saw the results and is doing the same thing, the major said. They are sharing their methods with the transportation school at Fort Eustis, Va.

DeLaughter calls this a Level 3 upgrade — a do-it-yourself effort. About 250 of the battalion's trucks are armored in this fashion.

About 100 more vehicles have been given Level 2 protection, DeLaughter said, which is the factory-produced upgrade kits for vehicles. Another 800 Humvees used for convoy protection are Level 1, which is the factory-produced vehicle armor from head to toe on the assembly line.

"Nothing rolls past the wire without some sort of armor," DeLaughter said.

The drivers said they feel safer with the added protection.

"There's still tension," Kamm

said. "But it's a more relaxed feeling than before."

Staff Sgt. Doug Stenberg is a driver in the battalion, but a welder in civilian life. He helped fashion many of the homemade upgrades. With 11,000 miles of Iraqi roads under his belt, he said the extra duty was no trouble.

"When it comes to getting shot at and [roadside] bombs, I've been there, done that, seen it," he said.

He was more than happy to lend his welding skills to the battalion.

"It feels real good [to help], especially when they come in here and explain what happened and walk away with all 10 fingers and 10 toes," he said.

Driving in the up-armored vehicles, he said, is more reassuring than before the upgrade.

"You never knew what, when or where," he said. "You were always on guard, a lot more on edge."

The vehicles with Level 2 upgrades and the Level 1 vehicles will remain when the battalion begins pulling out soon. The Level 3 vehicles will be driven to Kuwait, where, before they are shipped home, their armor plates will be removed and fastened to the trucks of units going north.

"Units coming in — not everybody, but as many as we can effect — will have quick add-on armor," Paget said.

Paget said there is no one to blame for the lack of vehicles arriving in the theater, even 20 months after the war began.

"We have a huge Army," he said. "And outfitting all of it will take time."

Plus, the nature of warfare has changed, he said. His vehicles would normally be several miles behind the front lines, ferrying supplies to the front.

In this war, he said, the front is everywhere. It simply takes time to adapt to the change.

That's why, he said, the 7th Transportation Battalion took the bull by the horns and addressed the problem its own way.

"We took the initiative on this," he said. "Nobody ever told us no."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.esr.pent.mil

Army negotiates to get more armored Humvees made

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army entered negotiations with an armor manufacturer in an effort to accelerate production of armored versions of the Humvee to get the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan more quickly, Army and company officials said.

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey spoke with officials at Armor Holdings, Inc., based in Jacksonville, Fla., who told him Friday they could increase production by up to 100 vehicles a month.

Army officials had previously believed the factory was working at capacity until the company told the news media Thursday that it could make more. Democrats immediately criticized the Bush administration for not boosting production sooner.

Still, company officials said the Armor Holdings plant was not immediately capa-

ble of boosting output. Armor Holdings said in a statement issued Friday that it could increase its rate of production by February or March.

"During the interim period, we will continue to build as many vehicles as possible, as we have done to date. In fact, we are currently ahead of the Army's production schedule by more than 330 total vehicles," the statement said.

In addition, the Army would also have to go to Congress for additional funding if February or March.

The Army has ordered 8,105 of the armored Humvees, and 5,910 are in Iraq, Afghanistan and nearby countries. Armor Holdings is already producing 450 a month, meaning they would be finished sometime in the early spring. Any increased production by the company before then would accelerate the completion of the order.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, responding to a soldier's complaint about not enough armored vehicles for the troops, said Wednesday the Army was working to produce more armored vehicles, but it was "a matter of physics, not a matter of money," suggesting that production lines at operating at capacity.

But Armor Holdings spokesman Michael Fox said Thursday that the company recently completed an analysis after the Marines inquired about buying 50 to 100 armored vehicles each month.

"We determined it was doable," Fox said.

Armor Holdings said it expected to produce about 4,000 armored vehicles this year, compared to 500 in 2001, 600 in 2002, and 850 in 2003.

Cost of the armored Humvees is about \$150,000 each.

Production has to be coordinated with AMC General LLC of South Bend, Indi-

ana, which produces the trucks used to make the armored Humvees.

Massachusetts Democratic Sen. John F. Kerry, who continually decried the lack of equipment during his unsuccessful presidential campaign, on Friday called on Rumsfeld to investigate.

Several companies that manufacture protective equipment have indicated they can significantly boost production, Kerry said in a letter to Rumsfeld.

There are thousands more Humvees in Iraq that were built without the extra armor. The military has purchased thousands of kits with bolt-on armor, but several thousand Humvees, and thousands more heavy trucks, remain without armor for use against insurgent bombs, guns and rockets.

The soldier's question to Rumsfeld, at a town-hall meeting in Kuwait this week, has led critics to ask why the Pentagon has been unable to send enough armored equipment 21 months into the war.

U.S. begins new offensive in Afghanistan

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The 18,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan have begun a new offensive to hunt Taliban and al-Qaida militants through the country's harsh winter, aiming to sap their strength ahead of planned spring elections, the American military said Saturday.

Operation Lightning Freedom was initiated after Tuesday's inauguration of Hamid Karzai as the country's first democratically elected president, Maj. Mark McCann said.

"It's going on throughout the country of Afghanistan. It's designed basically to search out and destroy the remaining remnants of Taliban forces who traditionally we believe go to ground during the winter months," he said.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the No. 2 American commander here, told The Associated Press last month that the mission would include a redeployment to tighten security on the border with Pakistan and raids by special forces to snatch rebel leaders.

Protecting Afghanistan's young democracy has become the most urgent priority for American commanders frustrated by their failure to capture al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, who disappeared here after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

The landmark Oct. 9 vote, which gave a landslide victory to Karzai, the U.S.-backed favorite, was free of the major violence threatened by Taliban diehards, who continue to fight on three years after they were ousted. Attention is already turning to the more complex National Assembly election, slated for April.

The new military drive, which involves all 18,000 American troops here, is also aimed at persuading militants to take up an offer of amnesty from the American military and the Afghan government.

"Ultimately, what we believe these operations will do is, they will establish security conditions that allow the parliamentary elections in the spring to occur with the same success" as October's vote, McCann said.

Lightning Freedom represents a new phase, rather than any shift in strategy, and commanders will continue with "a mixing of combat operations with humanitarian-type operations," the spokesman said.

However, the United States has several thousand more troops strung out across the south and east, where insurgents are strongest, compared with last winter, and commanders have said they will maintain their forces at current strength at least until after the parliamentary elections.

McCann said the military also



An Afghan police officer walks past 7 tons of narcotics being burned in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday. U.S. troops have launched a winter offensive in Afghanistan, where the government has vowed to crack down on drug smugglers.

will help Afghan security forces combat the country's booming drug industry, by sharing intelligence, ferrying counter-narcotics units to and from raids and rescu-

ing them if they get into serious trouble.

Karzai says Afghanistan's exploding cultivation of opium poppies, the source of most of the

world's heroin, is now a bigger threat to the country than militants, and officials are vowing to arrest top smugglers and refiners.

However, the U.S. military is concerned that raids could lead to fresh political instability and will lend a hand to anti-drug raids "as long as they do not interfere with the coalition's primary missions" of defeating insurgents and fostering reconstruction, McCann said.

A spokesman for NATO forces deployed in the capital, Kabul, and across the north said it would also provide indirect assistance to Afghan counter-narcotics forces, but gave no details.

The number of so-called Provincial Reconstruction Teams — small military units tasked with supporting local authorities and carrying out small-scale relief and development projects — has also risen from five to 19 over the past year.

"It's not just about conducting combat operations. It's also about connecting with the people here," McCann said.

The new operation follows Lightning Resolve, a massive security operation begun in July to protect the October election, the first national vote in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001.

In previous winters, the U.S. military has mobilized one or two battalions for sweeps of particular regions, an approach which brought few visible results.

Pentagon reviewing Guantanamo abuse claim

BY PAISLEY DODDS

The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The Pentagon said Friday that it was investigating allegations of abuse by an Australian prisoner at the U.S. detention camp in Guantanamo Bay.

Also, a U.S. senator from New Mexico said he would ask Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to explain reports the government tried to suppress reports by U.S. military personnel and FBI of abuse at U.S.-run detention camps in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo.

The Pentagon, which maintains detainees are treated in accordance with the Geneva Conventions that prohibit the use of torture or abuse, said it was looking into claims by detainee David Hicks of beatings and other mistreatment at Guantanamo. Hicks' allegations became public Thursday in an affidavit released by his attorney.

"There's currently an ongoing investigation into allegations of abuse in the case of David Hicks based on abuse allegations," Pentagon spokesman Maj. Michael Shavers said.



Australian David Hicks, one of the first prisoners to arrive at the detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in January of 2002, seen in an affidavit Thursday that prisoners were beaten while blindfolded and handcuffed.

The investigation began before the allegations became public, he said.

Additional investigations into abuse and mistreatment at Guantanamo Bay, as well as other aspects of the detention mission, are also pending, Shavers said.

Hicks, accused of fighting with Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime, said he and others suffered abuse by U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, where he has been held since January 2002.

Where Humvees go to die

Vehicles battered from IEDs moved to Iraq parking lot

BY BRUCE WALLACE

Los Angeles Times

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq — This is a graveyard for Humvees, the fabled resting place for the hulking vehicles felled by insurgents' roadside bombs.

In a parking lot, the U.S. military's most common personnel carriers lie flattened with noses down in the mud. Their metal carcasses are barely recognizable. Tires have been splayed to the sides or blown away entirely. Shrapnel has burst holes in some unprotected parts of the vehicles, as if they were tin foil.

The nine mangled Humvees here have been destroyed by improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, as the military calls them.

"Now this one here, you can see the IED tore the whole back end off the vehicle. It's just gone," said Sgt. Patrick Parchment of 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which operates south of Baghdad.

"The front is sitting cockeyed. And that's steel," he said, showing a visitor another severely vehicle.

The blasted remains do not offer much optimism about the fate of the Marines who had been riding in them. Sixteen Marines of the 24th MEU have died since arriving here in July; another 259 have been wounded. The majority of the casualties resulted from IEDs, as Marines must run a daily gauntlet of roadside bombs on highways and dirt roads that cut through farms.

The Marines and Army have almost 20,000 Humvees in Iraq, according to the Pentagon. But a quarter of them lack proper shields.

The lack of armor triggered an uproar this week when a Tennessee National Guardman told Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld that troops had to forage for scrap metal to weld to their vehicles for protection. The confrontation, at a U.S. base in Kuwait, raised questions about whether the Pentagon was doing enough to provide armor and other safety equipment for the 135,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

The visit to the Humvee cemetery here occurred before Rumsfeld's meeting with the troops.

Marines here say they are at risk every time they drive out the gate of their base to make supply runs or conduct patrols. Surveying the mangled Humvee frames, they shake their heads when they talk about some of the blasts they have survived.

Humvees fitted with steel plating provide the best protection, the Marines say. But they point out that many Humvees on this base are being driven with jury-rigged armor that offers only limited defense against shrapnel.

"For the most part, the armor's doing its job, saving many lives," said Parchment, a 24-year-old from the Bronx neighborhood of New York City, whose unit cannibalizes the disabled Humvees for armor and other parts. "But sometimes the shrapnel goes right through the frame" finding gaps in the armor, Parchment said.

Nor is armor any guarantee of avoiding the smashed bones and severed limbs that characterize most of the wounds caused by roadside bombs. And it offers little protection against bigger explosives, such as 500-pound aircraft bombs that have also been used against the Americans.

Marines and soldiers continue to die almost daily from IEDs, the Iraq war's contribution to the world's catalog of effective low-tech weapons. The term "improvised" seems misleading because the explosive is typically a factory-produced 155 mm artillery shell that stands no more than knee-high.

The shells are usually propelled against a post or hidden under mounds of garbage at roadside. The destructive power of shrapnel detonated in the open-air has left U.S. troops with record rates of head and neck wounds and double the rate of limb amputations compared to previous wars.

"On an open road it's usually easier to see but often you usually don't recognize the trouble until you go by it and then you see it," said Lt. Col. Frank J. Messer, 25, of Mansfield, Ohio, who drives supply trucks down the highway.

DOD checks out troops' election experience

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The presidential election may be over, but the Department of Defense still is trying to get out the vote.

This month, the department's Federal Voting Assistance Program mailed out post-election surveys to military personnel serving overseas who were able to vote in the November election and what could help them better participate in future elections.

More than 118 million Americans voted in November, about 12 percent more voters than in the 2000 election. Defense Department spokeswoman Lt. Col. Ellen

Krenke said officials don't yet know if military voters followed that trend.

"However, the large number of individuals assisted via phone and e-mail indicates a high level of interest in the election," she said.

Before the November election, more than 230,000 absentee ballots were sent to troops serving outside the United States, according to the Military Postal Service Agency. About 180,000 were returned.

A Pentagon study following the 2000 election found that about 29 percent of military personnel who wanted to vote did not get the chance, either because absentee ballots were not available or they received the document too late.

In response, Krenke said, Defense Department officials worked closely with the U.S. Postal Service to speed up delivery and return of those ballots and increased access to federal write-in absentee ballots, used for troops who did not receive the proper paperwork from their local precincts.

The troops receiving surveys were selected randomly, and participation is voluntary. Troops who receive the mailed survey either can return the paper form or log their responses on the Internet. Voting program officials expect about 30,000 to take part in the survey.

Krenke said officials will use those responses to decide what changes helped

troops the most and what other services are needed.

Under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, each state is required to report the number of absentee ballots sent out to troops and how many were received back, so military officials can suggest improvements to the systems.

Those figures are due to the federal Election Administration Commission by Feb. 7. Data from the Defense Department's election survey should be available in spring.

An analysis of the successes and shortcomings of those military absentee ballot programs is due to Congress by the end of 2005.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

Pentagon extends CFC deadline

Pentagon officials have granted requests from combat commanders to extend by two weeks the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas deadline in light of the fast-paced operational tempos and extended troop deployments, a CFC official said.

The Defense Department extended the deadline from Dec. 3 until Dec. 15, if needed, said Greg Sassman, director of CFC-Overseas Europe.

European Command, however, declined to take the Pentagon up on its extension offer, and kept the deadline at Dec. 3, Sassman said.

"That doesn't mean we're not accepting donations" from units who collected funds up until the deadline and are "just late in turning their stuff in for whatever reason," he said.

"It just means there is to be no future active solicitations and events for CFC," Sassman said.

From staff reports

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BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Chaplain (Capt.) Arlie Maxwell of the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment based in Baumholder, Germany, talks with Staff Sgt. Jarrod Charles from the 2nd Infantry Division at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center on Wednesday.

Chaplains go extra mile for troops

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Faced with the difficult task of ministering to wounded troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, a group of 10 Army, Air Force and Reserve chaplains have taken an extra step to provide better care for America's fighting men and women.

On Friday, the chaplains graduated from a two-week course in combat and emergency medical ministry, offered for the first time in Europe at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Designed to teach chaplains how to better counsel troops with recent wounds and trauma from their injuries, the classes expose participants to some of the harsh realities of military ministry.

"The whole idea is to battle-proof the unit ministry teams," said Chaplain (Maj.) David Bowerman, deputy staff chaplain at the hospital and the coordinator for the classes.

The Army has offered the courses for years, but only at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, according to instructor Chaplains (Lt. Col.) George Bearden, a training manager for the Department of Pastoral Ministry at the U.S.

Army Medical Department Center and School there.

But with U.S. casualties returning from Iraq and Afghanistan crossing paths with chaplains in Germany, it made more sense to take the course to the hospital than to send people to Texas, Bowerman said.

To facilitate the classes, two teachers were flown over from Fort Sam Houston and two former instructors stationed in Germany were tapped to lead a condensed version of the ministry classes, Bowerman said.

Emergency medical ministry is intended to introduce new chaplains to the specifics of counseling troops returning from battle, Bearden said, while the "combat" course is a more advanced class.

Melded together for the Landstuhl sessions, the classes use coursework, lectures and round-table discussions to teach chaplains how to improve their spiritual support.

"They brought in some pretty shocking slides," Bowerman said. "You know, blood and guts."

There is also a practical side to the classes, Bearden said. Beginning students performed daily rounds at Landstuhl as part of the curriculum, visiting soldiers and acclimating themselves to the

hospital environment. All participants were also required to rotate on-call shifts to greet patients arriving at the facility from downrange.

As the military's medical hub in Europe, Landstuhl has had no shortage of troops for chaplains to talk to: close to 21,000 have been treated at the hospital since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Spc. Eddie Mejia, a chaplain's assistant with the 173rd Airborne Brigade out of Vicenza, Italy, is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in coming weeks.

He said the program has been a good first step in being prepared to minister to battle casualties, if he does encounter them. He hopes it will reduce the shock of the experience.

Bearden added that, though that kind of preparation is central to the combat and emergency medical ministry classes, the overall goal is to improve chaplains' counseling abilities overall.

"The purpose for us being here is because we want to do the best we can for our soldiers and our Marines," he said.

A second offering of the condensed classes is being planned for April, he said, but dates are not confirmed.

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.stripes.osd.mil

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Army hustles to train for 2 types of war

Weapons used in anti-insurgency fight don't apply to conventional warfare

By TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — In a radical reorientation, many soldiers are training to fight two distinctly different wars as the U.S. Army adapts from the post-Cold War world to fighting the global war on terrorism.

Even soldiers in the Army's last armored division are expected to train to be ready to wage two completely different fights — a nebulous counterinsurgency such as Iraq, and a large force-on-force conflict on a defined battlefield.

While a majority of soldiers in the 1st Armored Division are infantrymen, the Army is becoming more high-tech, not less, and heavy divisions are bringing a larger number of complex, high-skill weapons systems to the battlefield.

The Army's plan to keep those soldiers proficient on those weapons is being tested to the limits.

During recent Multiple Launch Rocket System live-fire training at Baumholder's range near Idar-Oberstein, crews from the 1st AD's 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment were slow to start working together to fire the weapons, among the most lethal weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

Batteries were scheduled to begin three firing scenarios at 8 a.m., but didn't finish until late in the afternoon because of complications, including pacetime safety regulations, only a few miles from the main town of Baumholder.

Before the firings, mechanics wrestled with recalcitrant vehicles that had been shipped back from Iraq "with a lot of problems," said Staff Sgt. Julio Metzler, a Battery C section chief.

"Knockin' the rust off," is how Pfc. Aaron Irions, a driver for headquarters battery, put it, a phrase echoed by Metzler and other soldiers describing the crew qualifications — step 8 in an 18-step series of competency tests termed rocket tables.

Two-pronged approach

But the question becomes, what if the 1st AD must fight a conventional war soon after returning from Iraq?

With U.S. forces fighting asymmetric wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, can they be expected to fight a conventional war against North Korea or Iran?

Army officials are trying their best to make sure soldiers are proficient at both conventional and anti-insurgency warfare, said Jonathan Grossman, a senior researcher specializing in military technology and military training at the Santa Monica, Calif.-based RAND Corp., a nonprofit think tank that often helps shape public policy.

But with two "main" missions, how much time can soldiers dedicate to retaining critical, highly perishable skills with high-tech weapons systems?

"That's an open-ended question," Grossman said.



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Lennie K. Mattis, a launcher chief, waits early in the morning in his M270 launcher for his crew's chance to fire rockets during training last month in Baumholder, Germany. The 1st Armored Division is training for the possibility that a war on a conventional battlefield could follow the anti-insurgency war in Iraq.

Rocket launcher delivers deadly blow

The Multiple Launch Rocket System, built by Lockheed Martin, is one of the deadliest weapons on the conventional battlefield, though it has no real use in the anti-insurgency battle in Iraq.

MLRS crews can fire a variety of rockets, some of which give U.S. forces the ability to destroy the enemy's command-and-control at ranges up to 25 miles.

That kind of firepower has the effect of turning an enemy armor offensive "into a bunch of tanks wandering around without a mission," said Maj. John Frisbie, operations officer for the 1st Armored Division's 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, based at Strassburg Casern near Baumholder, Germany.

With MLRS crews wiping out enemy radar, Apache attack helicopters are free to penetrate deeper into enemy defense and fire Hellfire missiles, Frisbie added.

Each tracked M270 launcher and its crew of driver, gunner and section chief can fire up to 12 rockets in less than 60 seconds, according to Lockheed Martin documents.

Each MLRS launcher can deliver almost 8,000 munitions in less than 60 seconds at ranges exceeding 20 miles. Some canister-type rockets have the ability to disperse enough bomblets in 60 seconds to annihilate enemy troops over an entire 1,000-square-meter map grid.

A battalion's five batteries — a total of 18 launchers — fire for the division commander via battalion and battery tactical operations centers. But each M270 crew can act independently, depending on the circumstances.

"It's not your dad's artillery anymore — units lined up and firing together," Frisbie said.

— Terry Boyd

Iraq, "then go to Graf and put the first missile down range perfectly the first time," he said, referring to the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Grafenwöhr.

The new reality

That said, no soldier or officer complained at Baumholder, headquarters for the 1st AD's 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery. Firing an MLRS was "awesome," Metzler said.

Though crews were nervous before the first test, they "high-fived each other in the launcher" upon completing the firings, said Staff Sgt. James Cookman, a Battery C section chief. Yes, having to train for two fights instead of one is not easy, but it's the new reality, he said.

"I have confidence we can do it. It's what we're asked to do and I have every confidence we're going to do it and do it well," Metzler said.

The battalion hadn't fired the MLRS since last March at Butler Range east of Baghdad, said Maj. John Frisbie, operations officer.

Frisbie and other officers echoed soldiers, saying that returning to artillery training after fighting in Iraq is exhilarating, but daunting.

Coordinating the highly mobile launchers with battalion command-and-control after 15 months in Iraq, then nearly four months of reintegration, proved difficult.

Even firing practice rockets, which have a limited range, "is so precise that it goes from being an 11 Bravo to firing rockets from point A to point B at a target you can't see is tough," Frisbie said.

The battalion now will break off their normal rocket tables to go to Grafenwöhr in March for infantry training to prepare for an eventual return deployment to Iraq.

In theory, both missions — artill-

ery and infantry — sound simple, but in reality neither is, Grossman said. Learning light-infantry tactics such as maneuvering techniques, he said, "is really quite difficult."

Firing the MLRS seems straightforward, but the ATACMS — Army tactical missile system with multiple warheads — "demands very detailed procedures to put in targeted information. They employ shoot-and-scoot tactics. At O-dark-30 on the battlefield, all hell can break loose unless teams are proficient," Grossman said.

He likened a dual mission to a heart surgeon who's also a brain surgeon: "It's not inconceivable you can do both, but it's difficult."

Abile to adapt

Studies show that soldiers who score in the top 25 percent on standardized Army entrance tests tend to learn at the fastest rate, Grossman said.

For smarter soldiers, training for two missions may not be a big problem, he said.

For the rest, "are we asking too much?" he asked.

The ongoing two-mission reorientation is not unprecedented, say Pentagon officials and retired officers, who noted that the Army always has trained for the most likely threat.

Reimer says he sees some similarity to Vietnam, where he was sent as an artillery officer, but ended up assisting infantry units.

"War changes things, and we're at war," Ralph Peters, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and author of "Beyond Baghdad: Postmodern War and Peace," said in an e-mail interview.

All Army units change their mission statement to reflect the most probable tasks they will perform, wrote Lt. Col. Christopher Rodney in an e-mail response to a Stars and Stripes query.

Peacekeeping and peacemaking tasks are most probable for 1-94, "and so it is reflected in their training focus," wrote Rodney, who works in the media relations division for the Department of the Army in Washington, D.C.

Peters, who is often critical of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, says he's not worried — soldiers have sufficient time to recover skills after Iraq.

"Certainly, Iraq is taking a toll, but the Army doesn't exist to take for the perfect conflict," he wrote.

It's easy to draw catastrophic conclusions from tactical details, Peters said. "Reimer said, 'I believe Iraq is having a positive effect on the Army, with the combat-experienced making it now the most experienced army in the world, as well as the best-trained and equipped.'"

"I think this is a very positive story that soldiers can adapt to the mission," Reimer said. "I think that's the story — the ability of the soldiers and the versatility of the soldiers. We couldn't have done that in Vietnam. We didn't have that kind of soldiers."

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IN THE WORLD

Powell meets with Arab leaders in Morocco

BY GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco — U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told a gathering of Islamic leaders on Saturday that they must join hands with industrialized countries on political and economic reforms to ease the "despair and frustration" that afflicts much of the region.

Powell was one of several speakers who addressed the "Forum of the Future" conference aimed at bringing greater dynamism to Islamic societies and making them less of a breeding ground for political extremism.

But several Arab delegates used the occasion to blast American support for Israel.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said the United States could do a better job of winning the "hearts and minds" of the Islamic world by a shift in its policies toward Israel. He said U.S. policies toward Israel are the "real bone of contention" with the Muslim community.

Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa also drew a link between Islamic reform and the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. "Arab culture is directly influenced by other situations," Moussa said, calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel.

At the same time, he said, "We need to combat extremism. If we are to build a strong society, we must take a strong stand against extremism."

Powell said en route here Friday night that reform in the Islamic world should not be impeded by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We can't keep pointing to the Middle East peace process as the reason we don't undertake reform efforts that are needed by these nations and as these nations have identified for themselves," Powell said.

Muslim countries "know that they can't wait for that solution to occur and not move forward," he said.

"Ours is a long-term task requiring a long-term commitment, extending generations," Powell told the delegates in his speech Saturday. "This far-reaching effort starts here and now. It's a challenge that must be confronted by all of us working together."

In addition to Islamic delegations representing the broader Middle East and North Africa regions, officials from the G-8 industrialized democracies were present as well. The United States and Morocco served as co-chairs.

Iran declined on Friday to send a delegation after indicating a willingness to attend. All told, 21 Islamic countries were represented here.

Police arrest man believed to have ordered U.N. aid workers' abduction

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A man who launched a militant Islamic group to fight U.S. forces in Afghanistan has been arrested in connection with the kidnapping of three U.N. workers there in October, a senior Pakistani Cabinet minister said Saturday.

Syed Akbar Agha, a former Taliban front-line commander in Afghanistan who later founded Jaish-al-Muslimeen, or Army of Muslims, was captured in the southern city of Karachi this week, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

"We have arrested the mastermind of the kidnapping of the U.N. workers in Afghanistan," Ahmed said. He gave no other details other than to say the arrest was not announced immediately in hopes that

interrogation of Agha would lead to other suspects being taken into custody.

Pakistani security agencies this week also arrested Abdul Hina Hemat, head of the Taliban's Bakhtar news agency, along with another person in the southwestern city of Quetta, a Taliban spokesman said. The Pakistan government had no immediate comment on the claim, and it was unclear if the two arrests were linked.

Afghan Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali said at the time that Agha's group may have hired bandits to abduct the U.N. workers. Armed men seized Annetta Flanagan from Northern Ireland, Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan and Shajpe Hebbi of Kosovo on Oct. 28.

A senior leader of Agha's group confirmed his arrest.



A bomb exploded at a crowded outdoor market in southwestern Pakistan on Friday, killing at least 11 people. Fourteen people were arrested Saturday in connection with the explosion.

14 arrested after deadly explosion in Pakistan

BY NASEER KAKAR

The Associated Press

QUETTA, Pakistan — Police on Saturday said they arrested 14 alleged members of a nationalist group following a bomb attack in southwestern Pakistan that killed 11 people.

As many as 26 people were also wounded when a powerful bomb went off next to an army truck parked at a crowded market in

Quetta on Friday, the latest in a series of bomb and rocket attacks against government forces in Baluchistan province.

Hours after the blast, a little-known militant group, the Baluchistan National Army, claimed responsibility, but said it had not meant to kill civilians. Two of the dead were soldiers.

On Saturday, Pervez Rafi Bhatti, a senior police officer, said 14

men were captured in overnight raids in different parts of the province by police acting on intelligence reports.

"These men are nationalists, but I cannot say whether any of them is directly or indirectly linked to Friday's attack," Bhatti told reporters in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province.

He said officials have no proof about the existence of the Baluchistan National Army.



Turkish honor guards salute during a ceremony at Anitkabir, the mausoleum of modern Turkey's founder Ataturk, in Ankara, Turkey, on Dec. 6. As Turkey makes its bid to join the European Union, many Turkish citizens are torn between the financial benefits membership promises to bring and abandoning traditional elements of their culture.

Many in Turkey torn between old and new

The Associated Press

SAKARKAYA, Turkey — In this mountain village near the Syrian border, chickens scurry across snow-sprinkled paths, horses trudge through mud to haul firewood to homes, and men huddle outside to puff on cigarettes.

Like many people in overwhelmingly Muslim Turkey, village leader Mehmet Cetin says his hopes for the future rest on the European Union, which he says will invest in factories and transform the village from one of poor sugar-beet and wheat farmers to a place where workers earn hefty salaries like their relatives who have emigrated to Germany.

But ask him whether his eagerness to join the EU means he's willing to let his sons and daughters adopt European culture and Cetin becomes quiet.

"They can take things from our culture and religion," he says.

For Cetin and many of his fellow villagers, accession to the EU holds out the promise of greater wealth, but also poses a cultural threat: The possibility of Turkish children adopting European values that many Turks see as unacceptably permissive, where girls ignore their fathers' wishes and boys shirk family responsibilities.

Polls show that some 70 percent of Turks favor the country's EU bid, but also indicate that a strong majority see Europe as a challenge to conservative, Islamic values that remain deeply entrenched throughout the nation.

Next Friday in Brussels, European leaders are widely expected to give Turkey a date to begin accession talks, a dialogue that will force both Turkey and Europe to face the challenge of how to integrate an overwhelming Muslim country with traditions that are different from those of the rest of Europe.

"If they [the Justice party] take further steps toward the EU, it will jeopardize their own values," said Ayse Ayata, a political scientist at Middle East Technical University.

But in many parts of Turkey, EU membership represents a road to riches.

"I've heard that every family in Europe has a doctor. If we enter the EU, the village will get a doctor," Cetin said.

Further progress toward the EU could lead to strains within the governing party, with more conservative members balking at European demands for reform or trying to introduce Islamic-oriented measures.

IN THE STATES

Headline security nominee withdraws bid

Ex-police commissioner Kerik cites nanny immigration status problem

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRAIDER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bernard Kerik apologized to President Bush on Saturday after questions about the immigration status of a housekeeper-nanny he employed led the former New York City police commissioner to withdraw his nomination as homeland security chief.

"I owe the president an enormous amount of gratitude for this consideration. I owe him a great apology that this may have caused him and his administration a big distraction," Kerik said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from his home in Franklin Lakes, N.J.

"I'm going to spend some time with my family. I'm going to work on getting messages out to people close to me who have been supportive, apologizing for the embarrassment," Kerik said.

The surprise withdrawal late Friday sends Bush back in search of a Cabinet official to help guard the country against terrorists.

While assembling paperwork for his Senate confirmation, Kerik said he uncovered questions about the immigration status of a housekeeper-nanny that he employed. As homeland security secretary, Kerik would oversee the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

"I am convinced that, for personal reasons, moving forward would not be in the best interests of your administration, the Department of Homeland Security or the American people," Kerik said in a letter to Bush.

In an interview, Kerik said that on Wednesday he discovered financial records "that led me to question the tax filings regarding a housekeeper and nanny



Former New York City Police Commissioner Bernie Kerik, President Bush's choice to be secretary of homeland security, has withdrawn his name from consideration, the White House announced late Friday.

that was employed by me in my house, a very nice woman, a very good woman, someone who loves my children and they love her."

By Friday afternoon, Kerik said, "I came to realize that that there was not only a problem with the filings, there may have been a question with regard to her legal status in the country."

In the letter to Bush, Kerik said he could not allow personal matters to "distract from the focus and progress of the Department of Homeland Security and its crucial endeavors."

Kerik was among a small group of leaders who became the face of the response to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, often directing Manhattan's response alongside of then-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

When Bush announced Kerik's nomination last week, he won early support in Republican and some Democratic quarters.

But others questioned whether Kerik had the management experience to continue the nearly 2-year-long effort to meld the Homeland Security Department, which has more than 180,000 employees from 22 federal agencies.

Democrats also were focusing on Kerik's recent financial windfall from exercising stock options in a stun gun company that does business with the Department of Homeland Security. He earned \$6.2 million from the options received from Taser International.

Kerik's announcement marked an unusual disruption in the White House's normally well-choreographed personnel moves. But he is not the first prominent government official to fall victim to the "nanny problem."

Similar issues killed the nominations of three candidates for top administration posts in the Clinton administration. That includes Zude Baird, who was forced to withdraw her name from consideration to be attorney general after the disclosure she had not paid Social Security taxes for a housekeeper, an illegal immigrant.

While Kerik confided in a close circle of associates, the announcement came as a surprise to many government insiders.

Associated Press writers Donna de la Cruz, Ted Bridis and Devin Barrett contributed to this report.

Immigration plagued Clinton nominations

The Associated Press

Bernard Kerik's decision to withdraw his name as homeland security secretary-designate over issues involving hired help at home was not the first time a president has had his Cabinet and other high-level appointments killed by the nanny problem.

A look at three individuals who withdrew their names as nominees by President Clinton for Cabinet and other high-level posts because of similar political obstacles:

■ **Zude Baird:** The attorney who was Clinton's top pick for attorney general became the first of a series of nominees to fall victim to the "nanny problem." She had not paid Social Security taxes for a housekeeper — an illegal immigrant — as required by law. Baird asked the White House to withdraw her nomination.

■ **Lani Guinier:** A Clinton classmate at Yale University Law School, she was Clinton's choice to head the Justice Department's civil rights division. Clinton cited her legal writings on racial issues for dropping the nomination. She also had not paid taxes for a domestic worker.

■ **Kimba Wood:** The nomination of the federal district judge to be attorney general never went forward after the disclosure that she had hired an illegal immigrant as a baby sitter. She had paid the required Social Security taxes and broke no laws.

■ **President Bush** faced a similar problem in 2001 in setting up his first Cabinet when conservative commentator Linda Chavez stepped aside as nominee for labor secretary after it was disclosed she had given money and sheltered an illegal immigrant who once did chores around her house.

Physician declares Bush 'fit for duty'

The Associated Press

BETHESDA, Maryland — President Bush was pronounced "fit for duty" by his doctors after his annual physical Saturday. The checkup was delayed for four months because of his heavy travel schedule during the campaign.

"I have interviewed and examined President George W. Bush and have reviewed his medical records," a statement signed by 10 doctors said. "Within the scope of my specialty, I find him to be fit for duty and have every reasonable expectation that he will remain fit for duty for the duration of his presidency."

The White House planned to release details of the four-hour examination later Saturday.

The medical exam at the National Naval Medical Center outside Washington was the fourth physical of Bush's presidency. He usually has his annual exam in August but this year found it more convenient to his schedule to wait and his doctor had no problem with that, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

After the checkup, Bush stayed at the medical facility to visit with Marines and sailors recovering there from injuries suffered in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 58-year-old president, who won a second four-year term on Nov. 2, was pronounced extremely fit in his past three annual exams.

Homeowners return to scene of Md. arson

BY STEPHEN MANNING
The Associated Press

INDIAN HEAD, Md. — The lawn outside 5751 Cabinwood Court was deep green, even for December, and freshly trimmed. Two weeping cherry tree saplings silently stood guard, and the black mail box near the street awaited its first delivery.

But the scene of suburban tranquility ended at the front yard.

The house was a little more than a shell, hollowed out by flames. Reminders of the fire were at every turn — the garage door bent and blistered by the heat, the bay window nothing more than a blackened hole, the charred remains of a staircase.

No. 5751 was one of 26 homes destroyed Monday by arsonists in an upscale Charles County development. Most of the houses were under construction, but some, including No. 5751, were nearly ready for families to move in.

"It's nuts," said Capt. Joe Montminy of the Charles County Sheriff's department, who worked all week on the investigation.

Authorities, including investigators with the State Fire Marshal's office, the FBI and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, say they don't know who set the fires — or why. All motives are under consideration, including racism or environmental terrorism.

Police blocked off the neighborhood Friday morning as a few anxious homeowners gathered. Utility workers and contrac-



A Charles County sheriff's deputy looks at one of 26 fire-damaged homes in the Hunter's Brooke housing development in Indian Head, Md., on Friday. The fires which burned the houses early Monday, are being investigated as arson.

tors tricked back to the scene.

On the other corner, Derrick Potts' house stood virtually untouched. Potts, his girlfriend and three children were the only people living on the block when the fires broke out. They escaped unharmed as the flames grew.

Potts and Terri Roarkard returned for the first time Friday for what they say was damaged.

"Everything was fine, everything was intact. Not one scratch," said Potts, a District of Columbia police officer.

Environmental groups had tried to block the Hunters Brooke development, saying it would damage an ecologically sensitive magnolia bog nearby. And many of the residents who planned to move in were black, causing speculation it was a hate crime.

Court clears tribal chief who was hanged in 1858

BY REBECCA COOK
The Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. — Chief Leschi of the Nisqually Indian tribe was exonerated by a historical court Friday, nearly a century and a half after he was hanged for the death of a militia soldier in what is now Washington state.

The unanimous verdict by a seven-judge panel isn't binding legally, but it drew cheers and tears from hundreds of people who gathered at the state history museum to hear the decision.

Leschi (pronounced LESH-eye) was hanged in 1858 for killing Col. A. Benton Moses of the territorial militia during the region's Indian war of 1855.

The historical court, led by state Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, ruled that if Leschi did in fact kill Moses, they were lawful combatants in a time of war, so a murder charge was not justified.

"I'm just happy. This is really about the future," said Cynthia Iyall, a descendant of Leschi's sister and chairwoman of the Committee to Exonerate Chief Leschi. "This is for all the kids... They need to know who that man was and what truthfully happened to him."

Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg, a former prosecutor who helped represent Leschi's descendants before the historical court, agreed that it was important to establish the truth.

"We cannot bring Leschi back to life, and we cannot restore Leschi to his land. We can, we must, restore his good name."

Over the years, many people, including Leschi's executioner and respected historians, had questioned his guilt.

After Leschi's first trial ended with a hung jury, the judge in the second trial refused to instruct jurors that killing an enemy soldier in war is not considered murder. Leschi was convicted and sentenced to death. On appeal, the territorial Supreme Court refused to consider new evidence showing Leschi was miles away when Moses was killed.

The Army refused to execute Leschi, as military leaders believed the rules of war should have prevented him from being charged with murder.

Instead, Pierce County authorities oversaw Leschi's execution on Feb. 19, 1858. His hangman, Charles Grainger, said later: "I felt then I was hanging an innocent man, and I believe it yet."

Nisqually Indians have kept Leschi's legacy alive by telling his story to their children and grandchildren, and his name appears on schools, monuments and even a Seattle neighborhood.

Nisqually tribal member Andrea Squally, 17, who attended the trial, recalled arguing about Leschi at school, insisting he had been unjustly convicted.

"They said it was right because it was in the history book," Squally said. "Now they have to change the history books."



Cynthia Iyall, a descendant of the sister of Nisqually Indian Chief Leschi, holds a portrait of the chief Nov. 30 in Lakewood, Wash., near the spot where he was hanged in 1858 for the death of a militia soldier.



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Inaugural ball to honor deployed troops in D.C.

BY TIMOTHY DWYER
AND MAUREEN FAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A major component of President Bush's second inaugural celebration will be a Commander in Chief Ball to honor troops who have just returned from Afghanistan and Iraq or are about to be deployed, inaugural committee officials said Friday.

About 2,000 guests will be invited to the Jan. 20 ball, one of the highlights of an inauguration that promises to be the most expensive and the most secure of any. The Commander in Chief Ball will reaffirm that Bush is a wartime president, one of the major themes of his reelection campaign.

For weeks, Washington has been undergoing a transformation from center of government to host city. Few events compare to the impact the inauguration has on the city, from bleachers sprouting on grand avenues, to parties

being planned, to security arranged for hundreds of thousands of celebrants flocking to Washington D.C., filling hotels and restaurants and clogging the streets.

Officials said the Commander in Chief Ball is a major difference in Bush's second inauguration. It will be one of nine balls scheduled for that night, the same number as in 2001.

Inaugural officials are working with the Department of Defense to distribute free tickets to the Commander in Chief Ball to servicemen and women and their spouses, with an emphasis on enlisted troops and noncommissioned officers, they said.

"It was a presidential directive to specially honor the men and women whose hard work is critical to the security of our country," said Tracey Schmitt, spokeswoman for the inaugural committee, "and it is an opportunity to celebrate those individuals and their families who have sacrificed and a way to acknowledge those who are out on the front lines of freedom."

Former inmate sues jail over baby's death

TAMPA, Fla. — A former jail inmate is suing over the death of her baby, born over a cell toilet even though she complained of labor pains for nearly 12 hours.

Kimberly Grey's lawsuit claims officials displayed deadly indifference to the newborn's medical distress.

Nurses were giving Grey, 35, a pelvic exam when the boy was born over the toilet. Clint Joshua Grey died of a lung infection on the way to Tampa General Hospital.

Grey was leaking amniotic fluid, running a fever, had complained for nearly 12 hours about labor pains and had asked repeatedly to be taken to a hospital before the March 5 birth, according to medical records cited by The Tampa Tribune.

From The Associated Press

Study unveils positive results for new method to detect cancer spread

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Removing just one to three key lymph nodes instead of the usual dozen or more can spare women lifelong arm problems and reliably indicate whether breast cancer has spread and needs aggressive treatment, the first big study to test this approach has found.

Many doctors have been doing this without proof that it is as good as the standard operation, and they still don't know whether it will hurt women's survival odds.

But the large, federally funded study has answered at least the accuracy question, finding that the less severe surgery is 97 percent accurate at revealing whether cancer has spread beyond the breast.

"There is a high degree of accuracy here," said Dr. Thomas Julian, a breast cancer surgeon at Drexel University College of Medicine and Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh. "This offers an option for the majority of women."

He presented the research Thursday at a breast cancer conference in Texas.

Dr. Stephen Edge, a surgeon at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y., called it "a landmark study that many of us, including me, thought was undebatable," because so many women already demand the less severe surgery.

When a woman has breast cancer surgery, doctors typically remove a third of the lymph nodes in her arm — about 10 to 20 — to see if the cancer has spread. The answer determines whether she

needs further treatment with chemotherapy and radiation.

But the surgery leaves many women with motion problems and less feeling in their shoulder and arm, and up to 20 percent develop lymphedema, painful and severe arm swelling that can recur throughout their lives. They also are at greater risk of infection because they have lost so many lymph nodes that drain fluid from the arm.

"Patients often get caught by friendly fire," said Dr. Mark Kistner of the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford, England.

intended to help save their lives, said Dr. Mark Kistner of the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford, England.

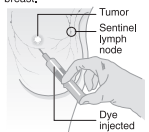
The alternative is called sentinel node biopsy. At the time of a woman's breast cancer surgery, doctors inject a dye that travels and collects in the lymph nodes most involved in draining the area nearest the tumor. The theory is that these "sentinel nodes" would be most likely to contain malignant cells if the cancer had spread beyond the breast.

Julian's study involved 5,260 women in one of the longest-running cancer studies ever, the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project. It is known for such watershed findings as proving that removing just a cancerous lump was as good as removing the entire breast for most women, and establishing the benefits of chemotherapy and tamoxifen.

All women in the new study had an average of three sentinel nodes taken out. Half then went on to have the usual 10 to 20 nodes removed. The others had more nodes removed only if the sentinel ones had cancer.

Sentinel node biopsy

A new study shows that analyzing the lymph node closest to the tumor is sufficient to determine if cancer has spread beyond the breast.



A dye is injected into the lymphatic system to identify the closest node or the "sentinel node," most likely to contain malignant cells.

Source: National Cancer Institute

AP



Nykia Crawford, 10, plays a Game Boy hand-held electronic game Tuesday while she is prepped for surgery by her doctors Anu Patel, left, John Kakauberi, center, and nurse Lizzie Jacobs at University Hospital in Newark, N.J. Researchers have found letting children play Game Boy prevents anxiety before surgery.

Study: Game Boy relaxes children before surgery

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON
The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Letting children play video games on a Game Boy in the operating room can help relax them better than tranquilizers or holding Mommy's hand, researchers say.

Doctors found that allowing children a few minutes to play the games reduced their anxiety until the anesthesia took effect.

Dr. Anu Patel conducted the study after noticing a friend's 7-year-old son was so absorbed with his Game Boy at a restaurant that he ignored the adults and the food at his table.

"We find that the children are just so happy with the Game Boy that they actually do forget where they are," said Patel, an anesthesiologist at University Hospital in Newark who plans to present her findings Saturday at a medical conference.

Patel said the findings could be helpful because many parents do not want tranquilizers given to their children.

Youngsters who are traumatized before surgery run the risk of long-term psychological problems, including nightmares, bed wetting and fear of being alone.

In addition, strapping a restless, frightened child to an operating table can cause a temporary blood pressure spike, make the heart race and trigger stress hormones that can delay healing, said Patel,

also an assistant professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Other hospitals long have used teddy bears and games to distract children before surgery, but those techniques generally are employed in patient rooms, playrooms and waiting areas, not in the operating room. At Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, kids are encouraged to play in waiting areas before surgery and to take a "comfort item" — occasionally a Game Boy — into the operating room.

A Boston company, Design Continuum Inc., has begun testing a combination anesthesia mask and headset that would allow patients to play video games or listen to music, but distribution is years away.

Patel studied 4- to 12-year-olds in three groups of 26 children each. All had parents with them in the operating room until they were anesthetized. One group also got a tranquilizer, and the third group played with a Game Boy.

On average, the Game Boy group showed no increase in anxiety before surgery. But on a standard, 100-point scale for measuring preoperative anxiety, the tranquilizer group jumped 7.5 points and the parents-only group 17.5 points.

Shant Willis, whose 10-year-old daughter Nykia had a cyst removed at the Newark hospital Tuesday, said the girl was nervous until she got a Game Boy. She then relaxed and played with it until she was anesthetized. "It was like she put everything out of her mind," Willis said.

Shedding dollars, pounds: Maker claims costly treat is healthy



Bissinger's claims its new Spa Chocolates contain ingredients linked to improved cardiovascular health, lower risk for certain types of cancer, a reduction in body weight and a slowing of the aging process.

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — "Shed your guilt. Chocolate can have a place in your healthy lifestyle."

That's the strategy of Bissinger's Handcrafted Chocolatier, a long-established, upscale chocolate company based in St. Louis.

Bissinger's new Spa Chocolate urges you to "treat yourself to good health." At a cost of more than \$2 a candy and named to conjure up images of pampering and well-being, it definitely qualifies as a treat.

As to the health, the elegant packaging says the candies contain ingredients "linked to improved cardiovascu-

lar health, lowered risk for certain types of cancer, a reduction in body weight and a slowing of the aging process."

From a blueberry cup to a sugar-free walnut bear claw or cherry cordial, the bite-sized candies contain several ingredients believed to have some health benefits: dark chocolate, fruits and nuts.

But the health claims amount to a trick, said the director of nutrition at the Washington-based Center for Science in the Public Interest.

"The claims that these candies can help you lose weight, fight cancer or improve your short-term memory are not supported by good evidence," said CSPI's Bonnie Liebman.

She said studies have been done on some, but not all, of the individual ingredients and the related claims, though Bissinger's said it had thoroughly researched the ingredients. And she didn't believe people would get enough of the ingredients to result in the rewards that, she said, could be misleading at a time when two out of three Americans are overweight.

Not so, the chocolate company said. Connie Diekmann, the university dietitian who helped develop the product, said eating one chocolate daily as part of good overall dietary habits can help people trying to start or maintain a healthy lifestyle. The candies come seven to a box for \$15.95, each candy labeled for a day of the week.



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Gay visitation rights

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A state judge has ruled that two mothers are better than one, but the state appeals court is considering how much protection Utah law provides to gay or unrelated partners raising children related to only one partner.

The dispute between two women arose out of the civil union they entered in Vermont four years ago.

Utah Third District Judge Timothy Hanson awarded visitation rights to one of the women, who says she has become involved in religion and no longer identifies herself as gay.

The couple was joined in a Vermont civil union four years ago, then broke up. The judge ruled a Taylorsville woman has a right to visit the 3-year-old girl.

Internet schooling

NH NEW HAMPTON — Illness has kept him at home, but 11-year-old Zachary Ellis is still going to class.

Zachary, of New Hampton, attends four classes each day with the students at Newfound Memorial Middle School through the use of laptop computers, the Internet and Web-based cameras. Students can hear him ask questions, make comments and see him raise his hand, even though he is sitting in his room at home.

Zachary was diagnosed with autoimmune liver disease and Crohn's disease two years ago. Both conditions deplete the immune system, limiting his interaction with others that may expose him to germs, especially during flu season.

8-year-old suspended

LA NEW ORLEANS — An 8-year-old girl was suspended for nine days for bringing to school what appeared to be about 30 "Jell-O shots" — though it was unclear whether they contained alcohol.

The incident occurred Nov. 29, as the girl stood after classes outside Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary School in Terrytown, a New Orleans suburb. A teacher spotted liquid dripping out of the student's bookbag and found what looked like the small cups of alcohol-laced gelatin that are sold in bars, schools spokesman Jeff Nowakowski said.

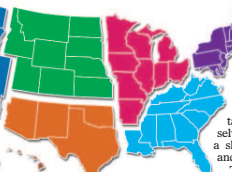
The girl told the principal that her mother, who works in a bar, makes alcoholic shots at home and sells them at work. The fourth-grader said her mother had instructed her to take the shots to school and sell them, three for \$1, to make some money for Christmas, Nowakowski said.

The gelatin was turned over to the sheriff's department for testing to see if it contained alcohol.

Long way from home

TX FLOWER MOUND — Snowbirds from the frigid North are a common sight in Texas, but Carla is a different breed altogether.

A trucker found the 11-year-old mixed breed dog in Amarillo and brought her to a Denton veterinary hospital — 1,600 miles away from



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

her Castle Rock, Wash., home. Gail Scott was shocked when the North Texas animal hospital called to say they'd found her dog, who was identified through an implanted microchip.

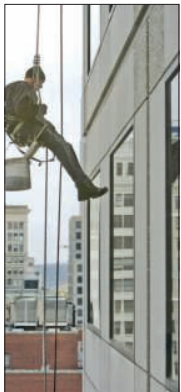
Scott says she believes Carla escaped from her yard the day before Thanksgiving and was picked up by a trucker at a nearby truck stop.

Ghost for sale

IN INDIANAPOLIS — A cane that belonged to a 6-year-old boy's grandfather soon will have a new home — and, Colin Anderson hopes, so will his grandfather's ghost.

GoldenPalace.com will add the "ghost cane" to a collection that already includes a grilled cheese sandwich said to bear the image of the Virgin Mary. The Anti-ga-based casino paid \$28,000 last month for the sandwich, which it bought — like the cane — on eBay. "It's just the new Americana thing," said Monty Kerr, a spokesman for the online casino that on Monday offered Mary Anderson \$65,000 for her father's metal walking cane.

Kerr said the cane — which Anderson auctioned to ease her son Collin's fears that his grandfather's ghost was haunting their home in Hobart — likely will go on



Not afraid of heights

A window washer rappels down the side of a building in Cincinnati.

tour like the famous sandwich.

Taxi safety

CA BALDWIN PARK — The City Council approved an ordinance requiring that taxi drivers protect themselves with safety devices like a shield separating the front and back seats.

The move came after the killing last month of Manuel Arevalo, the fifth cab driver in the city since 2000 to be fatally shot while on the job. Taxis will be required to be equipped with a shield, emergency signal or remote locator system.

Reward declined

MO KANSAS CITY — An anonymous tipster who was eligible to receive a \$40,000 reward for providing information that led to an arrest in a murder case has turned the money down, asking that it go instead to a charity established in the victim's name.

Ali Kemp, a 19-year-old college student, was strangled two years ago while working at a swimming pool in Leawood, Kan., an affluent Kansas City suburb. The widely publicized case generated thousands of leads, yet none of the tips produced an arrest.

But information provided by an anonymous caller led to the arrest last month of Benjamin Appleby, a former resident of the Kansas City area who was captured in Connecticut, where he was living under another name.

Appleby, 29, is charged with capital murder and attempted rape.

He is being held on \$1 million bond.

Mayor's mail tainted

NE LINCOLN — A small amount of potentially dangerous mercury spilled from an anonymous letter sent to the mayor's office, authorities said.

A second mercury-laced letter was sent to the police chief, but was not opened. No injuries resulted from the letters, which were critical of the police department.

The small amount of mercury appeared to have come from a thermometer. Research has shown that excessive exposure to mercury can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and children.

Drought continues

AZ PHOENIX — Cloudy, wet weather has covered Arizona for days, but it won't be enough to break a nine-year drought, said Tony Haffer, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Phoenix.

The state would need about three times normal rainfall, or about 25 inches in one year, to signal the end of the drought, Haffer said.

Charter school restriction

RI PROVIDENCE — Gov. Don Carcieri announced that he plans to file legislation in the upcoming session of the General Assembly to eliminate restrictions on the number of charter schools allowed in each school district. Carcieri said the caps keep students on waiting lists and out of class.



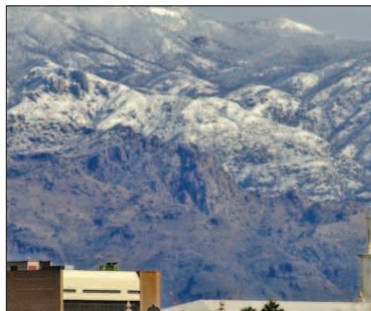
Wet kiss

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay Zoo Educator Amber Wisler, left, holds a mulberry leaf next to ten-year-old Alice Beck's cheek to help initiate a kiss from Tango the giraffe, in Tampa, Fla.



Oy, a new toy

Meisha, the 8-year-old dog of Stan and Joni Sucan, goes to work on a stuffed gefilte fish, in Columbus, Ohio. The fish is one of the items in Chewish Treats' line of Jewish holiday-inspired pet toys.



Snow leaves beautiful sight

Snow is seen on the Saratoga mountains during a winter storm that p



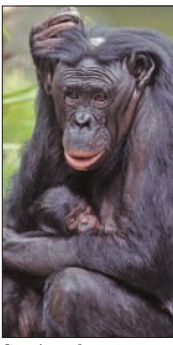
Looks comfy

John Anderson of Gail, Texas, tries out a shitsu massage chair at the Cowboy Christmas show at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas.



Southern snowman

Due to a lack of snowfall in south Louisiana, Henry Brunet built his snowman from Spanish moss, which is displayed in front of his Dularge, La., home. According to the Louisiana Office of State Climatology, the last trace of snow that fell in the Terrebonne Parish area was in March 1993.



Staying close to mom

A female bonobo, or pygmy chimpanzee, named Lana holds her baby at the San Diego Zoo in San Diego, Calif.



to Catalina Mountains as the Saint Augustine Church in downtown Tucson, Ariz., looms in the foreground, followed through the city.

Wildebeest attack

IN NORTH LIBERTY — A wildebeest that was part of a man's menagerie of exotic animals trampled him to death on his northern Indiana farm, police said.

It was unclear what caused the roughly 500-pound wildebeest, an African antelope also known as a gnu, to attack Klaus "Dick" Radandt, 64, in the barnyard behind his home in North Liberty.

Police said Radandt's wife, Terri Lynn, became concerned when he did not return for lunch after going to the barnyard.

She investigated and found him lying on the ground and called paramedics, who were unable to revive him.

St. Joseph County Coroner Chuck Hurley said the male animal apparently used its head to repeatedly ram Radandt and then trampled him after he fell to the ground. The official cause of death was blunt force trauma to the chest and head, Hurley said.

With a female wildebeest nearby, the animal may have considered Radandt a threat.

Jury spares man's life

KS KANSAS CITY — A jury recommended a life sentence for a man convicted of killing five people in retaliation for the robbery and beating of his mother, sparing him the death penalty.

The same jury convicted Darrell Stallings on five counts of capital murder and other charges in the June 2002 shooting rampage in Kansas City, Kan. Prosecutors said none of the victims was involved in the attack on Stallings' mother.

Stallings, 34, who is scheduled for sentencing in January, apologized to the families of each victim.

Another man, Errik Harris, 28, is also charged in the deaths, but his trial date has not been set.

Lawnmower getaway

NH DOVER — It wasn't exactly the perfect getaway vehicle.

A man took off on a lawnmower Monday afternoon after allegedly threatening two Molotov cocktails at his ex-girlfriend's apartment building, police said. He was arrested after a brief, slow-speed chase.

Police said the homemade bombs — two glass Budweiser bottles filled with gasoline and plugged with rags — did not burst into flames. One of them shattered, spilling gas and sending fumes into nearby apartments. Two residents were treated for breathing problems.

Steven Coleman, 37, of Dover, was arraigned in Dover District Court on charges of criminal trespass, attempted arson, and resisting arrest, a misdemeanor. He could face up to 31 years in jail if convicted on all charges.

Donations rejected

NC STATESVILLE — The owner of an adult night club that last year gave gifts to hundreds of needy children in public housing says he's been told "thanks, but no thanks" this year.

Jeff Bustle, owner of Teasers,

said the Statesville Housing Authority told him that it won't accept gifts collected at his business.

"It's really sad," said Bustle, who has participated in toy drives for the past 14 years. Last year, Teasers donated more than 500 gifts to the authority.

David Meachem, executive director of the housing authority, said he rejected the toys because he was criticized last year for accepting the donation.

Wal-Mart robbed

TX BURLESON — Holiday shoppers were pepper-sprayed by a gunman who stole a bag of money from an armored car's guard at a North Texas Wal-Mart.

Twenty-two people required medical treatment after the gunman began spraying startled shoppers and workers after the robbery in front of the store. Authorities said six customers were hospitalized with breathing problems and 16 other people were treated at the Wal-Mart.

The handbag escaped in a white van, which was found abandoned in a field about seven miles away.

City code change

UT PROVO — Residents here can now officially own both cats AND dogs.

City Council members voted unanimously to replace the word "or" with the word "and" in existing city code, which means residents can now own up to two cats and — two dogs at the same time.

The problem was discovered when Susan Sewell and her family went to the Utah County Animal Shelter in Spanish Fork to adopt a kitten in August. The family already has a cat and a dog.

They chose a kitten and began filling out the adoption paperwork. But when shelter staff learned of their existing pets, the family was told they couldn't have the new animal because Provo only allowed residents to have cats or dogs, not cats and dogs.

Hamburger assault

NH ROCHESTER — Tony Carr wanted to pay for his burger.

Instead, police say, he ended up smooching the microwaved patty in a store clerk's face.

Carr, 37, of Berwick, Maine, turned himself into police. He was charged with simple assault and criminal mischief, both misdemeanors, and released on \$5,000 bail. He is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 3.

Investigators say Carr got angry on Nov. 28 when the clerk at a Cumberland Farms would not allow him to pay for a hamburger while it was heating in the store microwave.

Police said the clerk, Scott Lipzenberger, told Carr he had to bring the burger to the counter 15 feet away to pay for it.

Instead of paying for it, Carr shoved it into the clerk's face, burning his face and eye, police Sgt. Anthony Triano said.

Stories and photos from wire services

People from all over flock to Clinton store

Former president among customers ordering from library's shop

BY DAVID HAMMER

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK — A meowing Socks the Cat doll crowd that is in a stocking stuffed by former President Bill Clinton this year.

Clinton is among thousands of people from around the world who have spent more than \$400,000 at the Clinton Museum Store since it opened Nov. 15.

The former president placed a phone order from Chappaqua, N.Y., on Thursday, calling museum store manager Connie Falls to order a commemorative Clinton Presidential Library dedication dinner plate, two plates by Picard china and a Woodmere china reproduction of the plates Presidents Lincoln and Jackson used when they were in the White House.

He also ordered silk scarves that his li-

brary's volunteer staff wears, Air Force One toys that emit the sound of plane engines when they are squeezed, neckties, stuffed donkeys and a Socks the Cat doll that says "meow."

"I'm still totaling up the bill. Yes, he has to pay for it," Falls said.

The gift shop two blocks from the Clinton Library was bustling at the seams during the dedication celebration three weeks ago, and sales didn't slow much after the international visitors left town.

Over Thanksgiving weekend, store employees had to stop shoppers at the door to make sure they didn't exceed capacity. And just when lines weren't forming down President Clinton Avenue anymore, the museum store replaced that volume by starting Internet sales.

"We sent out an e-mail to 1,200 people

Monday night that they could shop online, and by the time we opened the next morning we had 40 orders," Falls said.

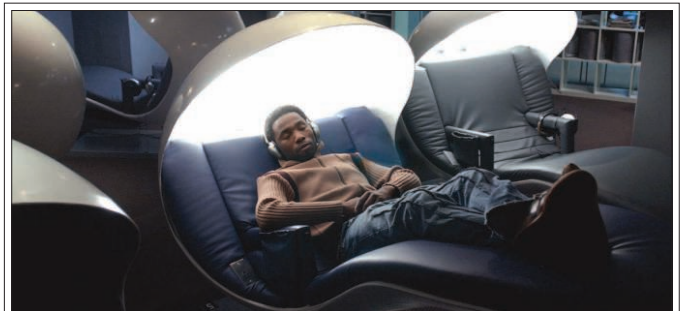
Tyler Denton, marketing director for the Clinton Foundation, which built the library and set up the museum store, suggested putting maps of the United States and the world in an unfinished hallway by the exit door with pushpins available for customers. The maps already tell the story of the store's popularity and Little Rock's sudden global appeal. Shoppers have marked every continent except Antarctica with the red pins.

The visitors come to see the library, but they are pulled into the rest of Little Rock by the museum store, which sits between the library and the downtown River Market district.

"This week I had visitors from Jackson, Miss., and Topeka, Kan., tell me, 'You're a weekend getaway now,'" Denton said.



A commemorative Clinton Presidential Library dedication plate is displayed in the Clinton Museum Store in Little Rock, Ark. Visitors from all over the world have come to the store since it opened Nov. 15. Even the former president has shopped there.



CHICAGO TRIBUNE/RET

Abdul Latif catches a few winks at MetroNaps in New York City in late November. Latif says he steps into the service, which offers a place for clients to nap, about three times a week.

New sleep pods made for tired bods

Business caters to New York City's work-weary with 20-minute power naps

BY STEVENSON SWANSON

Chicago Tribune

NEW YORK — The days are short and cold. The lists of year-end and holiday chores are endless. Rich food and befitting beverages abound.

Sounds like a good time for a nap. The holiday stretch that begins with the feasting of Thanksgiving and ends with the bleary eyes of New Year's Day is surely the high season for the oft-maligned practice of catching 40 winks.

At least that is the hope of two young entrepreneurs who are heading into their first holiday season as the proprietors of MetroNaps, a space-age snooze station that opened earlier this year at the Empire State Building.

For \$14, sagging shoppers and weary workers can put their feet up for a 20-minute power nap in a dimly lit space filled with seven sleep pods, which look like surplus from the set of "2001: A Space Odyssey."

A third of an hour may not sound like much, but a brief mid-afternoon nap can be just the thing to make the rest of the day productive. A 2002 study by Harvard

University researchers found that subjects who napped were better able to process information and learn new skills than those who stayed awake.

"We allow people to do more with their day," said co-owner Christopher Lindholm, 29. "There's a natural tendency to be drowsy in the afternoon, but we know that Americans are chronically sleep-deprived."

Occupying an office space on the skyscraper's 24th floor, MetroNaps has had steady business since opening in May, he said.

The company's custom-built napping stations resemble lounge chairs with their leg rest extended. Nappers can adjust their leg elevation to reduce cardiac strain, and a spherical hood can be pulled down over the upper body for greater darkness.

Headphones pipe in ethereal electronic music that soon induces a trance-like state. After 20 minutes, the back of the chair vibrates and the lights come on in the pod.

"I wake up every early day," said frequent customer Janet Rhew, 22, a special-education teacher whose students are preschoolers. "I just find that by early af-

ternoon, after the kids leave, I'm pretty exhausted."

Co-owner Arshad Chowdhury came up with the idea for MetroNaps while he was working as an investment banker in New York. In a business notorious for its brutal hours, he saw co-workers fall asleep at their desks or sneak off to the bathroom to take a nap.

While studying for his MBA at Carnegie Mellon University, Chowdhury researched the idea of a business that would charge people to take naps. Although a few companies provide napping lounges for their employees, he knows of no enterprise like MetroNaps.

"There is an unfortunate and outmoded notion of napping," said Chowdhury, 28, referring to the perception that napping is a sign of laziness. "Our biggest challenge was to repackaging napping."

Sleep specialists say that ever since Thomas Edison — who invented the light bulb, Americans have been getting less sleep.

A 2001 survey of 1,004 adults by the private National Sleep Foundation in Washington found that 31 percent of Americans get less than seven hours of sleep a night, the minimum amount recommended by sleep experts.

Security at clubs in question after deadly shooting

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A nightclub shooting that left four people dead, including a heavy-metal guitarist, has concert bookers and bar managers wondering whether fans will grumble less the next time they're patted down or directed through a metal detector.

Scott Stienecker, for one, thinks it will.

"It'll be a whole different feeling, I bet."

Stienecker's PromoWest Productions owns two Columbus concert halls larger than the Arosia Villa, where 25-year-old Nathan Gale gunned down "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three others before a police officer shot him to death.

Caroline O'Toole, though, and many of her fellow managers doubt Wednesday's violence will mean any significant changes.

"I don't think you can let the actions of one lunatic affect the industry as a whole," said O'Toole, who manages The Stone Pony.

Police say they may never know what made Gale target Abbott, who with brother and drummer Vinnie Paul Abbott left thrash-metal pioneer Pantera and later formed Damageplan. A friend said Gale recently started claiming that Pantera stole songs he wrote.

Gale drove 25 miles from his home in Marysville, jumped the club's outdoor patio fence, entered the club and worked his way through the crowd, reaching the stage and pulling out his 9 mm gun as Damageplan played its first notes.

Alos's owner, Rick Gaetala, told The Columbus Dispatch that he hired seven guards based on sales of 200 tickets before the doors opened.

Pole also killed Erin Halk, 29, a club employee who loaded band equipment, fan Nathan Bray, 23; and band bodyguard Jeff Thompson, 40.

"This is a very tragic situation, but isolated," said Mark Ledy, co-owner of Beachland Ballroom in Cleveland.

But a San Diego police officer and security consultant argued for more training for the largely unregulated job of nightclub security worker.

"They need the same type of training the police officers get," Robert Smith said. "The bouncer has no weapon and no police powers, but they still have to do the same exact job."

Associated Press writers John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio, and Dennis M. Smith in New York City contributed to this report.

Sunday Horoscope

The Capricorn moon loves tradition. And during this very traditional time of year, honoring the rituals passed down through your family, culture and generation will bring a feeling of peace and unity. The simple act of sitting down to dinner together will be grounding, getting you psychologically ready to face the action-packed week ahead.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 12): You mine your potential in 2005, and destiny smiles on you! In February, be open to introductions. By March, an important issue concerning home or family will reach fruition. A spirit of alacrity is headed your way in April. Debts are cleared in June so you can justify that extravagant vacation! Love signs are Cancer and Libra. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 15, 28, 50 and 39.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Let that genie out of the bottle. You've racked up a few new wishes and are ready to articulate them to someone who can actually do something about it! The future is bright, and it's right now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You get the message loud and clear — and this important communication probably comes through a family member or close female friend. Take full advantage of the use and go to chase a big deal. Kisses are lucky.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): All those numbers you've been crunching lately finally add up to big bucks. You'll see a windfall before the year's out. If you need special permission to invest in yourself first, consider this horoscope your invitation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Like the shape-shifting moon, you are always able to reinvent yourself. Others see you in a new and shiny light. Accept — with recognition with grace — what you earned it through years of hard work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Something that was previously hidden behind gray clouds now comes to light. This crucial bit of information

helps you put all the puzzle pieces together. Take time to rethink your strategy before redoubling your efforts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Being a team player pays off for you when a kindred spirit in your group becomes a champion of your pet project. Mixing business with pleasure was never this much fun. Be willing to share the profits, though.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Your dream job is calling to you like a beacon in the fog. Tune in to your instincts, and you'll see the way clearly. You might feel duplicitous for even considering other employment, but not considering your options would be foolish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Just because the spotlight isn't on you, that's no excuse to let someone else get all the glory. Book a trip, or take a class — you'll awaken your spirit, and you might even benefit financially.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You stand to benefit amazingly from other people's money. Those who prosper may include your spouse, your business partner, a family member or even the government. Be generous to those less fortunate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your significant other or perhaps a close friend can sometimes express your hidden fears and desires better than you can. It's OK to let him or her see your vulnerable side. You are cherished.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's a good thing you like surprises because your schedule is about to get thrown for a loop. When folks get up, you're just as likely to be the anchor in the storm as the lightning rod.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You've never needed an excuse to party, but you'll get plenty anyway. An abundance of love, money and creative freedom are just ahead. Fishes create their own festa everywhere they go, so pick a pond, and dive in.

Creators Syndicate

'Josh' origins only a theory

Our neighbor's name is Josh. He's ranked recently how the term to "josh" someone (meaning to tease or kid) came to be. We could find nothing to help him with his question. Can you? — J.V., Toms River, N.J.

Dear J.V.: Sorry to disappoint you and Josh, but the word "josh" is another one of those words of mysterious origin for which many unproven theories are bandied about.

The favorite theory of most commentators seems to be that "josh" was connected with the name "Josh Billings," which was the pseudonym of American humorist Henry W. Shaw. Shaw

began writing in 1838, however, and we know that an early form of the verb "josh" existed several years before that.

Another theory is that "josh" comes from an English dialect term, "joshin," meaning "bumping." But "josh" began life in America, not England, so again the connection seems weak. Some theorists suggest that "josh" was once considered by certain people to be a homely or unrefined name. But, for now, at least, the mystery of "josh" remains unsolved.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 9th Edition. Please send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Tale of teen sex should be shared with girls' parents

Dear Abby: My 13-year-old daughter, "Dena," is in the same grade as her friend "Amanda."

Amanda has a sister, "Barb," who turned 15 last month. Amanda told my Dena that Barb's 16-year-old boyfriend has been sneaking in Barb's bedroom window several nights a week for a while now, after their mother and stepfather have gone to bed. Amanda also confided that Barb told her that she and the boyfriend have had sex a couple of times, including before Barb turned 15.

I am not close to the mother and stepfather, although I do run into them at school functions. I wouldn't begin to know how to approach the parents and tell them what I know.

Should I be concerned with what's happening to other people's homes after they've gone to bed? Or should I keep this to myself and let them find out the hard way down the road?

Dear Mother in Oklahoma: Dear Mother: Do you others as you would have them do unto you. Call that girl's mother and tell her what you know and how you learned it. If you tell your daughter's friend confided is true, they need bars on the win-

dows and a chastity belt for Barb (and some serious counseling).

Dear Abby: I work in the mailroom of a large company.

Every day we deliver the mail that is sent to the people who work here. On some occasions, I deliver mail to people who have private offices. Sometimes, these people are having a meeting in their office and do not shut the door.

When this happens, should I just give them their mail, or wait until they are finished talking to that person? I'm asking because sometimes I get dirty looks from those people while I'm giving them their mail — like, "How dare you come into my office while someone is in here!"

Abby: I don't talk to them and I try to stay out of their way, because I know that someone walking in can be distracting. What is the correct mailroom etiquette?

Dear Confused: The universal signal for "Do Not Disturb" is a closed door. If the door is open, then you should be free to enter. However, since you are being given directions for making deliveries while there is a conversation in progress, the next time

the person is alone, ask what he or she would prefer under those circumstances. Another suggestion would be to stand quietly in the doorway for a few seconds and wait for the person to acknowledge you and motion you in.

Dear Abby: I have been married to "Kurt" for 13 years. It's a second marriage for both of us.

Kurt consistently fails to introduce me at social functions and leaves me to fend for myself. At the last party we attended, he left me to talk to the most attractive blond woman there — someone we had both just met. At the end of the evening, he hugged her and told her to call when she's back in town.

I told Kurt his behavior hurt my feelings, and if he respected me he wouldn't act this way. He says I'm out of line. What do you think?

— Socially Abandoned in Bend, Ore.

Dear Socially Abandoned: Your husband appears to suffer from social amnesia — he "forgets" he's married when the two of you go out. You are not out of line; he is.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90068. Readers may write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby> or on the New York Times Syndicate.

Woman's extended vacations may amount to animal abuse

Dear Annie: I have a friend, "Moira," who lives in a very small house. Moira isn't married and has no children, but she does have 12 cats.

Moira has told anyone inside her house in the last 10 years. She says the house is too dirty. Her husband broke several years ago, and she won't let anyone in to fix it.

When Moira is bothering her cats, she tells them: "Here Moira goes on vacation, she leaves the cats in the house and won't let anyone in to check on them."

She says she leaves food and water out, but sometimes she is gone for two weeks at a time. This summer, Moira left the cats in the house for a week when the weather in our area was over 100 degrees.

Some of our friends say this is animal cruelty. Others say it's Moira's business and we should stay out of it. Tell me, Annie, what should I do?

— Confused Cat in California
Dear Cat: Leaving 12 cats cooped up inside an overheated house with no means of cooling off is animal abuse, and we worry about Moira's mental health.

You can report the situation anonymously to the local Humane Society, but if you are unwilling to do that, perhaps her

friends could offer to pay for a cleaning service. Also, please talk to Moira. She might benefit from some professional help.

Dear Annie: I am a 48-year-old single mom. I had not years a serious relationship for years until I met "Crazy."

It is truly the man of my dreams. He's 49, handsome, educated and successful, and we have a lot in common.

The problem is, Gilbert lives 200 miles away. He and I decided that before we fell too deeply into love, we should break it up. Unless we could manage to live closer. He said he doesn't want to say goodnight to me on the phone. He wants me with him, and it's just too painful to be apart.

I have never been so in love with anyone, and I am certain Gilbert is the man I want to be with for the rest of my life. I would pack up and move near him, but I have a 15-year-old who doesn't want to leave school and her friends. I really need some good advice.

— Lost Love Love
Dear Lost: It's too bad Gilbert finds you so geographically undesirable. Your daughter will be going off to college in a few short years. It is possible for you to

convince Gilbert to maintain a not-so-long-distance relationship with them! Surely, if both of you are sufficiently motivated, you could find a way to see each other every month and, along with phone calls and e-mail, it might be enough.

Dear Annie: You were correct in referring the person from Salina, Kan., who admitted having a gambling problem, to Gamblers Anonymous.

However, I am concerned about the writer's revelation that he's thought about suicide. Compulsive gamblers often feel guilty, depressed, ashamed and even suicidal. Sadly, they frequently come to believe that suicide is the only way out of their situation.

Please inform your readers about the National Compulsive Gambling Hotline (1-800-522-4700) and the National Helpline for Gambling Crisis Line (1-800-784-2433).

— Deanna Dailley, Mental Health Association of North Dakota

Dear Deanna Dailley: We appreciate the way our readers look out for one another. Bless you for caring.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Amy Sparg, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailboxcomcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



YOUR MONEY

Organizations can reduce post-vacation blues

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband Jake's new command.

My neighbor Maggie Warren and her family took a week's vacation at the end of July.

"I didn't realize how much I'd miss my daily talks with her until she was gone. A few days after the Warrens left, Mom called from Whidbey Island.

"How's your preparation for family beach week coming?" she asked.

I froze. One, because it drove me crazy when my mom caught me off guard, and two, because I had completely forgotten about beach week. For my family, the pinnacle of the year is a week in August we call family beach week. My parents always rented the same house on the shore. This year was no different except I was a day of travel away from the beach house instead of one hour away in Whidbey and I had a spouse — in the Navy.

"Uh, fine," I replied, with a stutter. "You haven't started preparing, have you?" she asked, with a chuckle. "I had a hunch it was going to be a challenge for you to make arrangements this year. The life of a newlywed can be pretty complicated even if you're not married to a man in the military. You'd better make your plans soon if you want to come to the beach house this year. Anything I can do to help?"

As usual, she was one step ahead of me, which is her job as a mom. Now, instead of Mom taking care of all the family vacation details, I was going to have to figure out how to organize, arrange and pay my family's vacations.

I needed to get organized and I'd start with my mom's famous vacation-to-do list. I picked up a piece of paper and started writing.

First, Jake needed to take time off from work. Not taking any chances, I called him at work and asked him to put in his leave permission chit. He agreed and was hopeful that his chain of command would approve his request even though he had not been at the command that long. I checked his LES and he was available to leave days available to take the week off.

Next was my vacation. I called Mr. Mickey and asked him if I could take that week. I even volunteered to work off-site via the Internet if he wanted me. He said there was no need. He did joke that he'd have trouble living without me for a week and to take my laptop just in case.

I'd grown closer to Mr. Mickey since my initial job interview. He knew if something needed to be completed, I'd make it happen and I knew he was usually looking out for me.

Next, I needed to figure whether to travel by car, plane or train. I checked prices on the Internet. A round trip plane ticket cost \$907 for each of us and we'd take about five hours. I estimated that driving the 1,200 miles to Whidbey would cost about \$900 assuming it cost 37.5 cents a mile and that it would take two nine-hour days of driving. Finally,

Vacation planning list

Date	Who	What	Cost	Status	Comment
23-Jul	Jake	Leave from 8/7 to 8/15	\$0	In-work	Can't buy tickets until Jake confirms leave
23-Jul	Susie	Vacation for 8/10, 8/12	\$0	Done	
23-Jul	Susie	Train reservations	\$436	Done	See Notes
6-Aug	Susie	Food for trip	\$20		Cooler, lunch, dinner, snacks
6-Aug	Susie	Pack	\$0		
Week	Both	Family food	\$100		Help with family groceries
15-Aug	Susie	Paid	\$0		
15-Aug	Susie	Food for trip	\$20		Cooler, lunch, dinner, snacks
15-Aug	Susie	Parking at train station	\$100		
Total			\$676		

NOTES:

Train	Start	Stop	Date	Depart	Date	Arrive	Accommodations
763	San Diego	LA	7-Aug	6:12a.m.	7-Aug	8:50a.m.	Reserved coach
14	LA	Seattle	7-Aug	10:15a.m.	8-Aug	8:30p.m.	Sleeper car
11	Seattle	LA	15-Aug	10:00a.m.	15-Aug	9:00p.m.	Sleeper car
796	LA	San Diego	15-Aug	10:10p.m.	16-Aug	12:50a.m.	Reserved coach

Source: Ralph Nelson

Stars and Stripes



Ralph Nelson

ly, a train trip for both of us based on information I found at www.amtrak.com would cost us \$436 and would take two days — while staying in a sleeper car.

The train was the obvious choice. It was the least expensive and the sleeper car sounded both relaxing and romantic.

Everything was slowly starting to fall into place — just like when Mom did it — and that was a good feeling.

As soon as Jake confirmed he could take leave, I'd reserve our tickets on www.amtrak.com. If we worked fast, we could get tickets to leave on Saturday morning and arrive Sunday evening. I'd also plan on my dad picking us up in Seattle and driving us to the beach.

Finally, we'd need snacks on the trip and need to pick up some of the cost for the family's food once we arrived.

The planning spreadsheet had

a rough vacation cost of \$676. This would be an expensive trip considering Jake and I barely made \$2,000 a month after taxes — and we weren't even paying for lodging. I wondered how expensive it was for Maggie to go on vacation with a child.

Jake and I talked about the trip when he got home that night. As far as taking leave, Jake said his senior chief didn't see a problem with him taking it, but some extra paperwork would be waiting for him when he got back.

Then, we talked about the budget and where to get the \$676. We both agreed not to use the credit card since Jake's old senior chief recommended never using a credit card for consumables like eating out and vacations. It was too easy to forget about these types of expenses until the credit card bill came. We decided to pay for our train tickets out of our savings account immediately and take a cou-

ple hundred in cash during the trip and split it between the two of us for safety. Finally, we agreed to build our savings account back up quickly in the fall.

Over the next week, we finished the items on my vacation check list. When it came time to leave on Saturday morning, our stuff was all ready.

I couldn't wait to start the family beach week!

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to: Master Plan Inc., 520 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849 or online at www.savvysailor.com. This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is: finance@stripes.osd.mil

Planners: Money matters can muddle marriage

Couple mixes financial, relationship advice

BY SHERYL JEAN

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press

Talk to financial planners Susan and Steve Zimmerman, and you'll get more than practical advice on how to invest your money. You also will get a strong dose of psychoanalysis.

In 20 years of working and living together, the Zimmermans have learned that to help people get their finances under control, they first must know what makes them tick.

The Zimmermans are among a small but growing number of financial planners who have figured out the intimate bond between money and relationships makes human nature hard to ignore when making financial decisions. Most people's money habits are deeply rooted in the way they were raised, and they and others say, so it is no surprise money is one of the top reasons behind marital troubles.

Susan Zimmerman, who along with her credentials as a financial planner is a licensed family and marriage therapist, has identified eight personality traits called

"money rascals" to help figure out how people think about money. The terms include "flashers," who are spendthrifts, and "cashers," who are savers and debt dodgers.

The Zimmermans, who live in Apple Valley, Minn., use themselves as examples. She refers to herself as a "recovering" casher. Steve Zimmerman says he is a recovered stasher, who liked the thrill of high-risk investments and making a quick buck.

"The trick is to get them balanced and not have one dominate at any one time," said Susan Zimmerman, exchanging a knowing look with her husband. "It's simply helped us to know what deeper questions to ask — and to help put couples at ease. I was never OK with it just being about the numbers."

The Zimmermans think their background and experience give them insight in helping other couples — and helps differentiate them in a crowded field of financial planners. They are also among a few married financial planners across the country who counsel clients together.

SEE MONEY ON PAGE 21



Financial planners Susan and Steve Zimmerman, right, meet with Ken and Cindy Youngberg in Apple Valley, Minn. The Zimmermans believe there are eight financial personal types to help people figure out how they handle money.

KRT

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Alabama can't get past it The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

The remnants of segregation continued to exist in the constitutions and statutes of Southern states long after federal laws made them moot.

By now, though, most official vestiges of Jim Crow ought to have disappeared as states crafted modern constitutions or stripped offensive language out of old documents. Not so in Alabama.

The state still uses its 1901 Constitution, which was written expressly to deny voting rights and a decent education to African-Americans. What's worse, voters refused this fall to remove language supporting segregation from the 103-year-old document.

Paving the way to segregation, even if it is only on paper and is unenforceable, will hold the state back. Alabama has a hateful history on racial issues, a history that has affected its image and limited its ability to thrive economically.

This was a chance to walk away from the past and show the world that Alabama has changed. The truth may be that it hasn't changed much after all.

Game's shame chamber empty The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

Americans have been fascinated by video games ever since someone figured out a way to play a simple game of pong on a television screen. Thirty years later, video games have reached a level of sophistication that rivals the best military battlefield simulation.

Too bad good taste hasn't kept pace.

The game has gone too far in a computer simulation titled "JFK Reloaded," in which players re-create the 1963 assassination of a U.S. president. Gamers "fire" three shots at President Kennedy's car. Lee Harvey Oswald's re-created sixth-floor perch in the Texas School Book Depository. There's a possible prize for exact replication of the real shots, and points are deducted for mistakes, such as hitting the first lady. The game, if it can be termed as such, was released on Nov. 22, the 41st anniversary of the shooting in Dallas.

Family members have described it as "despicable." This may not go far enough in describing just how low the Scotland-based firm Trafalgar, designer of the game, sank in marketing what it inexcusably calls an educational "docu-game" intended to refute the theory that a conspiracy was behind the assassination.

This isn't about free speech, it's about decency. "JFK Reloaded" trivializes an awful period in national history.

Even though speech is protected under the Constitution, there are limits. ... [E]ncouraging even the play-acting of such violence isn't in the best interest of anyone.

Warning labels all must read The Cincinnati Enquirer

While a Food and Drug Administration committee reviewing Procter & Gamble's testosterone patch for women didn't say no [this month], it clearly said, "Slow."

The advisory group wants to see broader, more controlled testing of the "passion patch," which P&G says will restore sexual desire in women whose ovaries have been removed.

There is a fine balance between necessary caution and unnecessary delays in getting needed drugs to market. While a setback to P&G, caution is an appropriate message for drug manufacturers, the FDA itself and even consumers. ...

Americans seem more willing to try a drug with long-term effects may not be known, even for ailments such as acne that



"I BOUGHT YOU SOMETHING TO WEAR THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL SEXY."

are not life-threatening. That lack of consumer worry may be one reason the FDA committee worried so much over long-term effects for the patch, Intrinsa. ... Others said it only made sense to use caution when weighing Intrinsa's modest results.

It's a model for the sort of critical thinking consumers, too, should exhibit in a world where there's a pill for anything and everything that ails you.

Can workers keep account? St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times

President Bush seems determined to privatize part of Social Security by allowing individual workers to invest a portion of their retirement payments in the stock market. ... Can individuals rely on themselves to make the best investment choices? A recent article in The Wall Street Journal suggests that the answer may be no. ...

One study of the difference in performance between professionally managed pension funds and self-directed 401(k)s found that the pension funds earned almost 0.5 percent more each year. ...

This will be tricky ground for Bush to tread. If the personal account offerings under Social Security are too limited or cost too much, the effort might be seen as nothing more than a payoff to Wall Street. If too little guidance is made available, then workers could end up with a false notion that their retirements are more secure than they really are.

Minors' policy all the rage The Times Union, Albany, N.Y.

Either baseball demonstrates that it understands the magnitude of the steroids scandal, or the government is going to have to intervene to save it from itself.

Baseball's reigning slugger, Barry Bonds, has been caught, or something quite close to it, using steroids. ... Jason Giambi of the New York Yankees, not so long ago a rather remarkable hitter himself, has admitted using steroids. And both of them are almost sure to get away with it.

The drug-testing policy in the major leagues is a joke. ... The first time a player is caught using steroids, it's mandatory counseling. The next time — and remember, testing only occurs once a season — it's a 15-day suspension. It would take five positive tests before a player could be banned for as long as a year.

That's the recipe for the mess baseball finds itself in. ...

Congress has the power ... to impose a new policy on the players, the owners and the enablers in the commissioner's office. ...

A sensible policy is out there, in baseball's minor leagues. Players are tested four times a year, and the first documented instance of using steroids means an automatic suspension. The race is on to see who first embraces it, for the good of the game.

FDA should think safety first Los Angeles Times

The Food and Drug Administration over the past decade has shifted its budget away from monitoring the safety of drugs on the market, focusing more and more on approving new medicines. That policy has an obvious side effect: Time after time, the agency has been slow to respond to evidence about the dangers of drugs on the market.

The FDA has wandered from its central mission. Patient safety should always come first, whether it's a new drug or an old drug. ...

It took the FDA four years to respond to evidence that Vioxx increased the risk of heart attacks. Why so long? A recent New York Times story, examining the flow of funds inside the FDA, explains it this way: Roughly a decade ago, about half of the agency's money went to drug safety and other areas, the other half to approving new drugs. Now, nearly 80 percent of the money goes to approving new drugs. ...

The FDA must show it is more than an efficient reviewer of new drugs. One way to start is to reorder priorities, and that means restoring the ranks of monitors who are watchdogs for drugs already on the market.

Law schools lay down law The Washington Post

A federal appeals court decision to strike down the so-called Solomon Amendment highlights the layers of bad policy that have led to an unfortunate standoff between the military and a group of law schools. The amendment, named for the late Rep. Gerald B.H. Solomon, N.Y., cuts off federal money to universities that don't treat military recruiters as favorably as those recruiting for other potential employers. Numerous law schools, because of the military's policy toward gays and lesbians, balked at assisting military recruiters, on the grounds that school policies for helping organizations that discriminate. When the military, after

the Sept. 11 attacks, started enforcing the law more aggressively, the law schools went to court.

While the legal merits of the case are complicated, the government's moral position is indefensible. The underlying policy of discriminating against gays and lesbians is an affront to patriotic Americans who wish to serve their country. The policy makes homosexual servicemembers deny who they are, though there is no evidence that they are, and has any detrimental impact on their ability to serve. ... The Solomon Amendment then adds insult to injury by forcing universities to become complicit in the insulting and damaging rule. These rules are offensive, and the solution is to abolish them.

In the meantime, however, the law schools face a difficult question. They would never allow a private employer who openly discriminated against gays and lesbians — or, for that matter, against Catholics or African-Americans — to avail themselves of their career services. They should be entitled to uphold the same principle for the military. But banning military recruiters from campuses contributes to a cultural gulf that already divides elite universities from the armed services. ... A fruitful engagement between the military and these law schools seems essential, and an open recruiting environment should be part of that.

Ridge climbed a mountain The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, Pa.

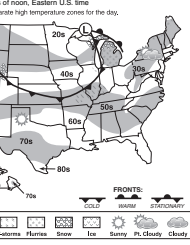
[Tom] Ridge resigned this month as director of Homeland Security, and probably is sleeping well at night for the first in a long time. ...

Some will judge Ridge's tenure in that new Cabinet-level position as only average, but true accomplishments, like the man himself, aren't flashy or worthy of many television sound bites.

Ridge managed to combine 22 different and competitive agencies and make a department of Homeland Security. The department has about 180,000 employees and is three times the size of computer giant Microsoft.

If any one person managed to do that in the private sector, in a mere three years, he or she would be honored and touted as a business guru.

Say all you want about duct tape and orange alerts. America wasn't attacked under Tom Ridge's watch. And that's good enough for us to rank his performance as highly satisfactory.



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Haywood makes up for late misses vs. Knicks

By JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With 55 seconds remaining, Brendan Haywood missed two free throws that would have put the Washington Wizards in the lead. The second one was an ugly short-arm that had no chance of going in. "I was mad," teammate Gilbert Arenas said. "But I couldn't stop him I was mad."

Haywood turned mad to glad in a hurry. He grabbed a rebound and converted a three-point play with 7.1 seconds remaining Friday night, giving Washington a 106-104 victory over the New York Knicks.

"A big play," Arenas said. "I told him I was going to give him \$10,000 in gift certificates." "Knowing Gilbert," responded Haywood, the team's runaway miser, "he'll give me \$10,000 in gift certificates to Victoria's Secret. That's the type of guy he is."

Haywood's heroics came on his team's 27th offensive rebound, tied for the most in an NBA game this season. Antawn Jamison had 25 points and 13 rebounds for the Wizards, who have won five of six.

Arenas had 20 points and seven assists. All the Washington starters reached double figures early in the third quarter during an entertaining game of fast breaks, dunks and flashy moves.

Haywood finished with 17 points and 14 re-

bounds, but nearly pulled another fourth-quarter disappearing act. He was scoreless in the second half before his game-winning three-point play.

"Missing those free throws really hurt. ... You have to keep your mind clear, because you never know how it's going to come back," Haywood said. "Tonight it just came back on me, and I was able to make the play. I've been saying it for a whole year: I want to play in the fourth, so I might as well do something when I'm in there."

The Knicks were more upset over another play by Haywood. The Wizards center blocked Stephen Marbury's short jumper as the ball was on the way down with 41 seconds left. The official ruled that the ball was going to fall short of the rim, so no goaltending was called.

"Yeah, he did goaldent it," Marbury said. "The ball was up in the air going down. They didn't call it. There's nothing you can do about it. It's not like we're playing CYO and you can protest the game. You've just got to live with it."

After Haywood's three-point play, New York had two final chances to tie, but Nazr Mohammed missed a tough shot in traffic and Kurt Thomas failed to put in the rebound as time expired.

"I got a good look at it and missed the shot," Mohammed said. "Besides an open layup, you



Washington Wizards' Brendan Haywood (33) tries to stop New York Knicks' Stephen Marbury (3) during the first quarter on Friday.

can't ask for a better shot. I got a wide open shot within a foot in the paint."

Mohammed finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Marbury had 18 points and seven assists. The Knicks have lost four of five and has fallen below .500, although they remain in first place in the Atlantic Division.

"They had 27 offensive rebounds, that's sickening," Mohammed said. "As far as being the big man on this team, I hate when we give up one offensive rebound."

Allan Houston, playing his first game of the season after recovering from a knee injury, scored eight points in 19 minutes.

Raptors put Carter on injured list

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Vince Carter of the Toronto Raptors was placed on the injured list with a strained left Achilles tendon Friday and will miss at least five games.

Carter was hurt in the first minute of the second half in Toronto's 90-86 overtime loss at Detroit on Wednesday.

"It's just something that's been bothering me for three years," Carter said. "I want to let it settle down and get better instead of hanging it over me."

Carter was driving along the baseline Wednesday, before pulling up and then falling to the floor. He was taken to the locker room and didn't return, then limped to the team bus after the game.

A prolonged injury could hurt the Raptors' chances of trading the five-time All-Star. Carter has asked to be dealt, and the Raptors have held trade discussions with a number of teams in recent weeks.

Robinson might miss season

CHICAGO — Glenn Robinson may sit out the entire season because of an ankle injury, Philadelphia 76ers coach Jim O'Brien said Friday.

Robinson, earning more than \$12 million in the final year of his contract, has been on the injured list all season with left ankle tendinitis and a sore elbow.

"I don't anticipate seeing him at all," O'Brien said. "He said he is incapable of playing. My understanding is that his ankles are incapable of carrying him on the court."

Earlier this season, Robinson was upset that Philadelphia didn't trade him. He averaged 16.6 points in his first season in Philadelphia last year — down from his career average of 20.8.

Wizards coach: 'Immaturity' led to Brown's suspension

WASHINGTON — Kwame Brown's boycott of a team huddle during a game was an example of immaturity that would not be tolerated, according to Washington Wizards coach Eddie Jordan.

Jordan on Friday discussed his decision to suspend Brown for the evening's game against the New York Knicks. The suspension was announced Thursday, one day after Brown walked away from a huddle during a home loss to Denver.

"It was detrimental to the team's success," Jordan said. "We've had some success. We've had a lot of maturity from the time of the end of the season through the summer to preseason to now, and we're not tolerating immaturity. We're not tolerating any type of poor conduct or behavior. We'll all on the same page."

Kidd spoils Scott's return to New Jersey

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — With the game on the line, Jason Kidd didn't hesitate to push his surgically-repaired knee to the limit.

Kidd hit a go-head basket early in overtime, and the Nets ended former coach Byron Scott's win in his return to New Jersey with a 94-91 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Friday night.

"Coach asked me and I told him I wanted to continue to keep playing," Kidd said after contributing eight points and eight assists in a season-high 28 minutes. "I felt great. We'll see how I feel tomorrow."

Nets coach Lawrence Frank struggled with letting Kidd continue the extra five minutes in only his third game since returning from knee surgery in July.

"I went to our coaches and said: 'I think I have to take him out,'" Frank said. "I looked at him and I went with it. I just pray he's OK."

Kidd had a basket, an assist and two rebounds in overtime. His biggest play came with 3:26 to go when he backed David Wesley down and hit a 10-footer for a 90-88 lead.

As the teams walked off the floor, Scott pointed to Frank in acknowledgment. Kidd had ac-



Roundup

knowledgeed Scott with a point before the game.

"He just wanted you guys to know there is no rift," said Scott, who was fired in January amid rumors that he and Kidd were at odds. "Anything you guys are trying to make it out to be, it's not. ... We've never had a problem and I don't know how many times I have to say that."

Nuggets 101, Raptors 87: At Toronto, Carmelo Anthony had 28 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and Nene had a season-high 21 points.

Kenyon Martin added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have won four straight.

Heat 92, Grizzlies 84: At Miami, Dwyane Wade narrowly missed a triple-double and Shaquille O'Neal scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter.

O'Neal made four of five shot attempts and added two assists in the lead 12 minutes, a stark difference from the middle two quarters when the Grizzlies held him scoreless and he missed the only three shots he tried.

Wade had 26 points, nine as-

sists and nine rebounds — coming up just short in a bid for what would have been the first triple-double in Heat history and the just second in the last 10 seasons. He and O'Neal combined for 19 of Miami's 23 fourth-quarter points.

Hawks 88, Pistons 72: Rookie Josh Smith replaced Kenny Anderson at point guard and had career highs of 12 points and four blocks in his first NBA start.

The visiting Hawks, who led by as many as 29, won for just the second time in 12 games and held Detroit to a franchise record for fewest points in a home game.

Timberwolves 113, Kings 105: Kevin Garnett scored a season-high 35 points with 18 rebounds and nine assists.

Playing before their largest home crowd of the season, the Wolves trailed for most of the first three quarters before using a 19-3 burst in the fourth to turn a four-point deficit into a 109-98 lead with 2:57 remaining.

76ers 93, Bulls 88: Allen Iverson had 23 points and 10 assists, and Samuel Dalembert had 13 points, 14 rebounds and six blocked shots in his first start of the season for the 76ers, who ended an eight-game road losing streak despite scoring just two points in the final 4:46.

Bucks 95, Pacers 86: At Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 21 points and Mike James added 16 to hand the Pacers their sixth straight loss.

The victory, Milwaukee's second over Indiana in four days, helped the Bucks (6-11) avoid their worst starting record in a decade, a 5-12 mark to begin the 1994-95 season.

Magic 113, Warriors 109: At Oakland, Calif., Steve Francis scored a season-high 36 points and also finished with eight rebounds and eight assists in Orlando's fifth win in six games.

Francis shot 11-for-26 and made all 14 of his free throws, carrying the load as Grant Hill sat out with a badly bruised right shin.

Jazz 92, Trail Blazers 87: Matt Harpring scored 17 points, including six in overtime, as host Utah snapped a six-game losing skid and avoided its first seven-game skid since 1981-82.

Attempting to tie the game in the final minute of overtime, Zach Randolph missed in the lane and Mehmet Okur stripped Shaef Abdur-Rahim after he grabbed the offensive rebound. Carlos Arroyo made one free throw and Harpring hit two to clinch the win in the last 18 seconds.

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Oklahoma St. makes another defensive play

The Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Undeclared Oklahoma State found a way to beat yet another defensive strategy.

In less than a week, the Cowboys (7-0) fended off deliberate Washington State, muscled through Syracuse's 2-3 zone and finished off the defensive assortment against UAB's full-court pressure in an 86-73 victory Friday night.

"With every style of play, we learn something about ourselves," said Cowboys guard Daniel Bobik, who scored 14 points. "I don't think that we are really going to see UAB's style of defense too much, but if we do, we are ready for it."

The Blazers (4-1) used pressure to force fifth-ranked Oklahoma State into quick and often ill-advised shots, but when the Cowboys were patient, they were on target — finishing at 52 percent from the field.

Joey Graham led Oklahoma State with 20 points and John Lucas III had 18 points and eight assists. Lucas spurred a 14-0 run early in the second half with a three-pointer and added another three-pointer and a three-point play in the surge to help the Cowboys build a six-point lead into a 60-40 advantage with 15 minutes to play.

"I love a physical game," said Lucas, who was slammed to the floor after a layup attempt and rammed his head into the basket support after another. "I like it when you get banged up and you're a little bit tired. We played tough and I think that we



UAB's Marvett McDonald is pressured by Oklahoma State's Ivan McFarlin (left) and James On Curry during Friday night's game. No. 5 Oklahoma State beat UAB 86-73.

played hard. Most teams when they get banged up, they don't want to go back inside, but we are going to keep going inside and get to the free-throw line."

The Cowboys made 25 of 30 free throws, but UAB was able to get to the line, too.

After Oklahoma State's run, the Blazers came back with eight straight points — all from the line — as they pushed a fast pace

on offense, too. But they also missed four free throws in the same two-minute span and it kept them from closing the gap.

"I think that our guys came in and gave everything they had," UAB coach Mike Anderson said. "Oklahoma State did what they were supposed to do and they came out on top."

Ivan McFarlin had 10 points and 12 re-

bounds for the Cowboys and James On Curry and Stephen Graham had 10 each.

Donell Taylor led UAB with 17 points and Marques Lewis and Richard Jones added 11 points each.

The Blazers closed to 69-58 when Terrence Crawford was called for goading on Jones' layup, but the Cowboys responded with eight straight points — including six in a row by Graham — to regain a comfortable lead.

Oklahoma State associate head coach Sean Sutton was looking for Graham to improve in other areas besides scoring.

"Joey Graham's got to go to the glass," Sutton said. "It's ridiculous for a guy as athletic as he is and as strong as he is in a wide-open game like tonight to have zero offensive rebounds."

Graham had seven rebounds — all on the defensive end — and both teams finished with 37 rebounds.

No. 17 Iowa 70, Iowa St. 63: At Iowa City, Iowa, Adam Haluska scored 20 points against his former team and Pierre Pierce added 15 points for the Hawkeyes (8-1).

Down by four in the final minute of the second half, Iowa State (4-2) closed to 61-60 on Jared Homan's two free throws with 2:06 left. But Iowa's Greg Brunner hit a shot down low and the Hawkeyes made enough free throws in the final minute to hold on.

Haluska, who started as a freshman at Iowa State in 2002-03, scored 10 points in the first 9½ minutes and finished 7-for-13 from the field, including 4-for-8 on three-pointers. Homan had a career-high 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

Bettman, NHL owners mull players' cutback offer

BY IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The NHL players' union insists its proposed salary rollbacks will dramatically change the league's economics.

Whether that's enough to persuade NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman to sign off on a deal and end the three-month lockout remains to be seen.

After a proposal by the players' association on Thursday that showcased a one-time 24 percent rollback on salaries, Bettman and the owners must decide if that in cooperation with a luxury tax, revenue sharing, a lower cap on entry-level contracts and changes in the arbitration system are enough givebacks to make a deal.

The new proposal didn't contain a link between league revenue and player salaries — the cost certainty that Bettman, who prefers a salary cap over a luxury tax, wants for the 30 clubs.

"What people have to stop back and look at it is not the labels, like 'Is it a cap?' 'Is it cost certainty?' 'Is there linkage?'"

NBA senior director Ted Sasaki told The Associated Press on Friday. "I have to believe they went into these collective bargaining negotiations with the desire of significantly reducing their labor costs and doing it in a meaningful way."

"I think this proposal clearly does that." The 86-day lockout is threatening to wipe out the season. Through Friday, 386 contracts and the 2005 All-Star Game were lost.

The union says it will never accept a direct connection between revenue and player costs, so if Bettman holds firm the season will likely be lost.

That decision could come as early as Tuesday in Toronto when the sides meet for the second time in six days after not negotiating for three months. Bettman says the league will have reviewed the 236-page

proposal by then and will make a counteroffer.

"If they just come back and say 'Thank you for the rollback. Now we just want to put it in a cap system,' I know what the response of the players is going to be, and that would be most unfortunate," Sasaki said.

The proposed luxury tax would penalize teams 20 cents for each dollar spent between \$45 million and \$50 million. The penalty would increase to 25 percent the second year and 30 percent in the third.

Teams spending between \$50 million and \$60 million would be taxed 50 cents on the dollar the first year, 55 cents the second year and 60 cents the third. Those with payrolls above that would have to pay 60

cents for every dollar the first year, 65 cents the second, and 70 cents the third year on each dollar over the threshold.

There would have been 13 teams that would have had to pay a tax if it was in effect last season. But with the rollbacks and about 200 unsigned players, only Philadelphia, Toronto and New Jersey would currently be subject to a tax on adjusted payrolls.

"We don't know how much money will be raised by the tax because it may be none because teams may decide to just stay under," Sasaki said.

Bettman noted that one aspect — presumably the rollback — was significant.

The rollback was increased from the 5 percent offer three months ago. The play-

ers' association figures that will provide a savings of \$270 million the first year and \$528 million over three years.

"That element is a recognition by the union of our economic conviction, but it is a one-time element," Bettman said. "The rollback is an essential ingredient in implementing any new system and getting our economics back to a level that we can afford."

He isn't sure the rollback is a solution that will address the overall problems the league faces — mainly certain teams that have the means to spend lots of money on players while others don't.

"We have said consistently that the focus must be on the overall systemic issues and the long-term needs and health of our game," he said.

And he still doesn't believe a luxury tax is a system that will work for the NHL. But owners might be lured to take the deal that would provide instant savings with the salary cutbacks.

"I didn't find it encouraging that they tried to reference this as a one-time event with no systemic change," Sasaki said. "When you make rollbacks of this magnitude, you are not only affecting only this year's contracts but contracts that are out two, three, four years."

Bettman has said that clubs lost more than \$1.8 billion over 10 years. Owners say teams lost \$273 million in 2002-03 and \$224 million last season.

An economic study commissioned by the NHL found that players get 75 percent of league revenues. The union has challenged many of the NHL's financial findings.

"They made a serious proposal, which I would suggest was the first one in this process," Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said. "Certainly they showed a recognition of the economic problems that the game is facing and certainly we're appreciative of that."

Key points in the NHL players' proposal

Salary rollbacks: Immediately cuts 24 percent off all existing contracts. NHLPA says that will save teams \$270 million in the first year and \$528 million over three years. The previous offer of Sept. 9 offered a 5 percent rollback.

Salary restraints: Would restrict rookie contracts to \$850,000 a year for three years, down from last season's \$1.2 million level.

There would also be reductions in qualifying offers to restricted free agents, and would give coaches the chance to elect arbitration in a system similar to one used in baseball.

The union estimates clubs will save \$400 million over the next six years and reduce the aggregate qualifying offers due to restricted free agents by \$285 million over three years.

Luxury tax: Would penalize teams 20

cents for each dollar spent between \$45 million and \$50 million. The penalty would increase to 25 percent the second year and 30 percent in the third.

Teams spending between \$50 million and \$60 million would be taxed 50 cents on the dollar the first year, 55 cents the second year and 60 cents the third. Those with payrolls above that would have to pay 60 cents for every dollar the first year, 65 cents the second, and 70 cents the third year on each dollar over the threshold.

Includes a revenue-sharing plan to bring the bottom 15 teams within 30 percent of the revenues of the top 15 teams.

Joint player-club committees: Committees would be designed to ensure improvements in the game, its marketing and its revenue.

The players proposed to play in the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics.

The Associated Press

Steelers, Jets meet in AFC showdown

By DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

The Pittsburgh Steelers barely escaped a loss in Jacksonville last week, thanks to Ben Roethlisberger's first late game-winning drive. With the AFC North just about wrapped up, they take on the New York Jets on Sunday, hoping to continue their run toward home-field advantage.

The Steelers have won 10 in a row, and the Jets have won three straight after a midseason slide. It's unlikely New York can catch New England in the AFC East, but the Jets lead the wild-card race by two games and have Chad Pennington back at quarterback. Pittsburgh, which clinched a division with a win, is favored by 6 points. That seems like a lot, especially for a team that tends to play things close, but the spread jumps when the Jets confirmed that defensive end John Abraham, who is having a career year, is out with a knee injury.

There might actually be more at stake for Pittsburgh than New York in this one.

The Steelers handed the Patriots their only loss, giving them the edge for home-field advantage in the playoffs if they win out.

The Jets have their wild-card lead, and the teams behind them are stumbling a bit, so a defeat wouldn't kill them.

Pittsburgh seems to have a touch of magic. In Jacksonville, the Steelers scored two touchdowns in the first 13 minutes. Then they were held scoreless until the Jaguars took the lead with just under 2 minutes left.

So Roethlisberger simply completed three consecutive passes to get Pittsburgh in scoring position, and Jeff Reed kicked a 36-yard field goal.

Most important, the Jets are 0-9 in Pennsylvania. Make that 0-10 — barely.

STEELERS, 17-16.
CLEVELAND (plus 11) at New England: The Bengals' comeback win in Baltimore last week was their most impressive in more than a decade. But the Patriots have been on a rampage since losing in Pittsburgh, and Corey Dillon should be up for his ex-mates.

PATRIOTS, 31-17.
Indianapolis (minus 10½) at

NFL picks

Houston: Peyton Manning had five TD passes in a 49-14 win over the Texans in Indy and would break Dan Marino's season record of 48 if he does it again. ... **COLTS, 34-26.**

St. Louis (plus 6½) at Carolina: Chris Chandler starts in place of the injured Mark Bulger for St. Louis, which has a chance to win the NFC West with a losing record. ... **PANTHERS, 24-17.**

New Orleans (7½) at Dallas: Julius Jones has revived Dallas' offense. ... **COWBOYS 31-20.**

Philadelphia (minus 9) at Washington: Is there any reason to think the Eagles won't finish 15-1? ... **EAGLES, 20-2.**

Oakland (plus 7½) at Atlanta: Atlanta wraps up the NFC South. ... **FALCONS, 24-20.**

Tampa Bay (5½) at San Diego: Bucs are coming on; San Diego might be down after big win. ... **BUCS, 22-20.**

Seattle (plus 6½) at Minnesota: Two facing NFL contenders. ... **VIKINGS, 37-30.**

New York Giants (plus 10) at Baltimore: These Giants look like the team that lost its first eight last season. ... **RAVENS, 24-6.**

Kansas City (off) at Tennessee (Monday night): This kind of matchup is the reason the league will be more flexible with prime-time games in the future. ... **CHIEFS, 34-27.**

Chicago (6½) at Jacksonville: The Jaguars' six wins are the sum of 23 points. ... **JAGUARS, 17-12.**

Cleveland (plus 11½) at Buffalo: Who knows what would have happened if the Bills hadn't stumbled early. ... **BILLS, 27-10.**

Miami (plus 11½) at Denver: Jake Plummer's erratic ways won't matter here. ... **BRONCOS, 24-10.**

Detroit (plus 9½) at Green Bay: An indoor game in Lambeau in December. ... **PACKERS, 32-9.**

San Francisco (plus 6½) at Arizona: Even with Denny Green at QB shuffle. ... **CARDS, 24-15.**

Last week's 7-8-1 spreadsheet (straight up):
Season: 92-97-4 (spread), 125-67 (straight up).

Chiefs running back Holmes says he'll be back next season

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Despite a knee injury that ended his season, Priest Holmes says he's "definitely 100 percent" planning to be back for 2005.

"In terms of next year, I'm excited because of the fact that it gives me an opportunity to heal up and start preparing for the 2005 season," Kansas City's star running back said Friday, a day after the Chiefs put him on injured reserve.

"There are a lot of things we need to do. We left a lot of things on the table this year," Holmes said. "We're still playing, we're still in it in terms of winning some games and making sure we end the season the right way. But the 2005 season is going to be exciting because we know that there's a valuable lesson that we learned this year — and that is that when you start having guys go down, it makes it really difficult to win ball games."

Holmes, 31, was leading the NFL in rushing and scoring when he strained ligaments in his right knee at Tampa Bay on Nov. 7.

At first he thought he would be out for the rest of the year. But healing was slow, and since the Chiefs (4-8) are one of the playoff hunt, it was decided to shut him down for the rest of the season.

"The injury just gave me an opportunity to rest up and to get the body 100 percent," he said.

This is the third time injury has cut a season short for Holmes, who set an NFL record in 2003 with 27 touchdowns.

A knee injury his senior year in college forced him to come into the NFL as an undrafted free agent. He underwent hip surgery



following the 2002 season and spoke of retirement after his big year in 2003.

But Friday, Holmes said his love for the game had not changed.

"The football has never left me. It never will, and I don't think there's any way that it could," he said. "It's a gift and something that I can't even control. I'd have to say that it's not necessarily something you have to train for ... it's just a God-given talent."

Redskins' Portis, Taylor fined for wearing red socks

ASHBURN, Va. — That was an expensive pair of red socks Clinton Portis wore last week. They're costing him \$5,000.

The NFL fined the Washington Redskins running back Friday for violating the league's uniform rules. Portis wore red socks instead of the team's solid white in last Sunday's 31-7 victory over the New York Giants.

Portis had one of his best games in the different attire, running for 148 yards on 31 carries. After the game, he predicted he would be fined, but he said he had to make the change because, in his words, "if you're not looking sweet, you really can't play too sweet."

Rookie safety Sean Taylor, Portis' good friend and fellow ex-Miami Hurricanes star, also wore red socks and also was fined \$5,000. Taylor was fined an additional \$7,500 for unnecessary roughness during the roughing the passer penalty in the fourth quarter.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, following the lead of the NFL's official source, The Associated Press. Thanks to Steve McMichael (bruised elbow), the Redskins' offense is questionable for Monday night's game against Kansas City.

Bills CB Vincent could play against Browns

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Bills cornerback Troy Vincent could play for the first time in more than two months Sunday against Cleveland.

Vincent tore cartilage in his right knee in the third game of the season. He had surgery and missed nine games.

He practiced this week, and coach Mike Mularkey sounded optimistic about the possibility of him playing against the Browns.

"He's had a really good week of work," Mularkey said Friday after practice.

If Vincent is activated, he more than likely wouldn't McGee.

Backup Terrence McCree has filled in well, making interceptions the last two games. Overall, McGee has three interceptions and two sacks, and has returned a team-record three kickoffs for touchdowns this season.

Vincent, a major free agent acquisition during the offseason, had missed just 16 of a possible 192 games in his career before this season.

Right tackle Mike Williams practiced Friday in a limited capacity for the first time this week after a knee injury last week against Miami. Mularkey said it will be a game-time decision whether Williams starts Sunday. Marcus Price would replace Williams if he is unable to play.

Middleman: From tiny Lovington, N.M., Urlacher hits the big time in Chicago

MIDDLEMAN, FROM BACK PAGE

bers that certainly would be higher if he hadn't been forced out of four games.

"It's what I do. You know I love to play, everyone knows that, I think I say it every week," Urlacher said.

"You know it's my job. I like being out there with my teammates, I love practicing, I love being in the locker room. It's just, football is fun. That's really all I can say about it. I want to get back out there as fast as I could."

In June 2003, Urlacher signed a nine-year, \$58.5 million contract and there have been several commercial endorsements, making him one of the city's most recognizable personalities.

He grew up in the small New Mexican town of Lovington, population 9,000, and now he's a fixture in a metropolitan area of 8 million.

"I just know I've never seen an athlete like him," Bears coach Leslie Smith said. "I've never seen a superstar like him. He's a perfect teammate to the guys in the locker room. He will play you out of him. ... A lot of times some of the superstars have answers and they don't let you coach them. But he's definitely not that way."

Urlacher's instincts are certainly responsible for much of his success. He seems to have a feel for the ball, has the speed and strength to chase down ball carriers, knock down quarterbacks or break up passes.

But he also studies more than most people know, says defensive coordinator Ron Rivera, a linebacker on the Bears' only Super Bowl winner.

"I think people don't realize that Brian comes in on Mondays and off days and is watching

films," Rivera said. "He spends time down here by himself. I don't think people really understand or know that he does those things, but as far as Brian is concerned, that's fine with me. I can."

Urlacher's concern this week is Jacksonville's Fred Taylor and Byron Leftwich, finding a way to disrupt the Jaguars' offense as both teams try to reach the playoffs with a strong final month.

Urlacher sometimes sits out practice — he did on Thursday this week — for precautionary measures and admitted he was weary of playing after having missed the previous two games. But that won't keep him from being one of the most active players on the field Sunday.

"Our season is not over yet and I want to play as much as I can," he said. "So it comes down to just loving to play and being out there with my teammates."

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Wells switches sides, joins Red Sox

Former Yankee signs two-year deal; Ortiz, Finley, Hidalgo find homes

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — David Wells is switching sides in the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry.

The loud lefty known for his unsharped glove of Yankees history agreed Saturday to a \$16 million, two-year contract with Boston.

While there was no announcement, the agreement was confirmed by a Red Sox official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Wells gets a \$3 million signing bonus and a salary of \$2.5 million a year. In addition, he would earn \$200,000 per start from 11-20 and \$300,000 per start from 21-30.

His decision to go to Boston was a stunning turnaround for the 41-year-old pitcher, who spent four years with New York over two seasons, then went 12-8 with a 3.73 ERA last season for his hometown San Diego Padres.

Boston, coming off its first World Series title since 1918, also hopes to re-sign Pedro Martinez and Jason Varitek.

"I'm sure before all the players are off the bench there will be players for whom the price is right for the Boston Red Sox," Boston GM Theo Epstein said.

At the winter meetings opened Friday, Russ Ortiz, Steve Finley and Richard Hidalgo found new teams, though there were no trades.

Arizona set the free-agent pace for the second straight day, agreeing to a \$33 million, four-year contract with Ortiz in an effort to complement Randy Johnson in its starting rotation.

Finley, who started last season with the Diamondbacks and finished it with the Dodgers, moved down into the bullpen to sign the \$14 million, two-year contract with the Anaheim Angels.

Texas agreed to a \$5 million, one-year deal with right fielder Richard Hidalgo, who split last season between Houston and the New York Mets. And the Florida Marlins reached preliminary agreements with relievers Antonio Alfonseca and Todd Jones.

As for the biggest names, agents appeared to be holding back, waiting for the market to rise even higher.

"When you look at last year's attendance growth, all those things put more money in the marketplace," Mets General Manager Omar Minaya said.

Carlos Beltran, Andrei Beltré, Varitek and



David Wells on Saturday agreed to a two-year contract with the Boston Red Sox that is worth \$18 million with performance bonuses.

Derek Lowe are represented by Scott Boras, whose clients have not reached deals until later in the offseason in recent years.

Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman expected to talk with Boras and with other top agents during the weekend, including Scott Shapiro, who represents Carl Pavano. Cashman also said Yankees pitching coach Mel Stottlemyre and staff ace Mike Mussina were to have called Pavano in the past week.

"He just needs some time to see where his heart is," Shapiro said.

Anaheim, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit and Seattle also are competing for Pavano, who pretty much has ruled out returning to the Marlins.

"At this point in time, I'd say it's very slim," Shapiro said.

"Ultimately, I don't know if they have the financial resources to compete as the market has matured to a certain level."

New York is close to an agreement with Jaret Wright on a \$21 million, three-year deal, and Cashman would like to get at least one other starting pitcher this weekend. The Yankees also have been talking with Eric Milton.

Sammy Sosa, Mike Piazza, Barry Zito, Tim Lincecum and Shawn Green have all been mentioned in trade talk, but it appears Johnson



Ortiz

Finley

and Kevin Brown won't be going anywhere soon.

The Diamondbacks said Friday that while Johnson had asked them to explore trading him to a contender, they expect the 41-year-old left-hander will remain in Arizona. The Yankees pulled out of talks last week, saying Arizona's asking price was too high, and it's not clear whether the Big Unit would waive his no-trade clause to go anywhere else.

New Arizona chief executive officer Jeff Moen said the talks were over and would not resume unless "they choose to re-engage."

Cashman, in turn, said it was up to the Diamondbacks to call him.

Arizona, responsible for large amounts of deferred payments in past contracts and coming off an 111-loss season, was thought to be on a tight budget. But the Diamondbacks agreed Thursday to a \$45 million, four-year deal with third baseman Troy Glaus, the 2002 World Series MVP with Anaheim. Then came the deal for Ortiz, a right-hander who went 15-9 with a 4.13 ERA for Atlanta but won just twice in his last 10 regular-season starts.

While the Diamondbacks tied for the 10th-most losses in major league history last season, Ortiz expects a quick turnaround.

"Winning's important. I wanted to be a part of what they're trying to accomplish," Ortiz said.

By adding the 39-year-old Finley, the Angels can move Garret Anderson to left field, where he played in 2002.

"Hey, I'm still in Los Angeles, right? Just wearing a different color," Finley said.

Finley, who turned down a \$17 million, three-year offer from the Giants, was a key factor as the Dodgers advanced to the playoffs for the first time since 1996. He hit .263 with 13 homers and 46 RBIs in 58 games after the July 31 trade, finishing at .271 overall with 36 homers and 94 RBIs.

"Once we took a look at it, we said, 'This is a natural,'" Angels General Manager Bill Stone-

Stadium chief tells Marlins to find new home by 2010

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Florida Marlins will not be allowed to play in their stadium after the 2010 season, the latest factor in the team's prolonged struggle to get a new ballpark.

Pro Player Stadium President Bruce Schulze said 2010 is the last of a series of one-year lease options for the Marlins, who share the complex with the Miami Dolphins. He said dropping the Marlins would let the stadium pursue such events as cricket and soccer.

The stadium in northern Miami-Dade County belongs to Dolphins owner and Marlins founding owner H. Wayne Hutzinger.

"The owner is free to do what he chooses," Marlins President David Samson said Friday. "What this does is make it very clear the need for the Marlins to have a new place to play is no longer just about economics. It's about survival."

Commissioner Bud Selig said he hoped "logic will get prevail" and the Marlins will get a stadium.

The Marlins are deadlocked with local officials over plans to build a 38,000-seat, \$420-million retractable roof stadium near the Orange Bowl. On Wednesday, team officials met with Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman about a possible move.

The Las Vegas trip angered Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and City Manager Joe Arriola, who accused the team of negotiating in bad faith. However, both said the city's offer to the team stood, and county officials were optimistic about a deal.

U.S. sprinter Collins suspended eight years for doping

The Associated Press

DENVER — Sprinter Michelle Collins was suspended for eight years for a doping violation linked to the BALCO scandal and was the result of a 2003 indoor world U.S. titles in the 200 meters.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency said Friday that a three-member panel of the American Arbitration Association ruled Collins, 33, used various performance-enhancing substances that allegedly were provided by the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

Though Collins never tested positive for banned substances, the appeals panel concluded she used the drugs for several years.

"She engaged in a pattern of doping involving multiple drugs

over a substantial period of time, during which she engaged and succeeded in many competitions," the ruling said. "The steroids she took, such as THG, and the complex and coordinated timing of her doping were designed, even more than the usual doping offenses, not to be detected."

USADA based its case on patterns observed from blood and urine tests Collins had in recent years, along with documents seized from BALCO by federal prosecutors and statements made by BALCO officials.

Among the documents reviewed in the arbitration were e-mails Collins sent to BALCO owner Victor Conte, including one in which she asked whether she could use a testosterone gel with a cream she already had.

The arbitrators' ruling said Col-

Sports briefs

lins did not contest the authenticity of the messages, but her attorney argued in the appeal that there was no evidence to prove she had sent them.

It was the first case decided by arbitrators concerning an athlete involved in the BALCO scandal in which there had not been a positive drug test.

Woods, Montgomerie take early lead in Target Challenge
THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Tiger Woods and Colin Montgomerie established themselves as the front-runners, each shooting an 18 under 66 at the Target World Challenge on Friday.

Montgomerie birdied five of his

first seven holes, then had to scramble for a bogey on the 18th hole to salvage a share of the lead at Sherwood Country Club. Woods made five birdies in a six-hole stretch in the middle of his round, disappointed in making only one birdie on the par-5.

They were at 9-under 133 and were two shots clear of Jim Furyk (68) and Jay Haas (66).

Miller fourth in downhill

VAL D'ISERE, France — Bode Miller tied for a fourth in the first of his three seasons, finishing fourth Saturday in a World Cup race captured by Austria's Werner Franz.

Franz recorded his first World Cup downhill victory after 98 starts, charging down the Orreiller-Killy course in 1 minute, 57.51 seconds.

Miller, the winner of the first two downhill this season, was next in 1:58.09. U.S. teammate Daron Rahivaltz tied for seventh in 1:58.27.

UC Santa Barbara, Indiana to vie for Men's College Cup

CARSON, Calif. — Drew McAtchey scored two goals to lead UC Santa Barbara to a 5-0 rout of Duke in the semifinals of the NCAA Men's College Cup on Friday night.

Indiana was the other semifinal when John Michael Hayden scored with 48 seconds left in second overtime to give the second-seeded Hoosiers a 3-2 victory over third-seeded Maryland.

The ninth-seeded Gauchos (21-2-1) and team (10-1-1) will meet for the NCAA championship Sunday at the Home Depot Center.

USC sophomore Bush steps out of shadows

Low-profile, big-play back joins QB Leinart as Heisman finalist

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In some ways, Reggie Bush is the most unlikely Heisman Trophy finalist.

He doesn't start for No. 1 Southern California, and ranks second on the team in rushing and receiving.

He's a sophomore, and the previous winners have all been juniors or seniors.

Finally, he's often been overshadowed by teammate Matt Leinart, also a finalist for the award. They'll be joined at Saturday night's ceremony in New York by Oklahoma's Adrian Peterson and Jason White and Utah quarterback Alex Smith, Bush's former high school teammate from near San Diego.

All that being said, Bush doesn't think of himself as a long shot.

"I envision myself winning the Heisman Trophy," he said. "We'll see. You don't want to be selfish, but at the same time you do because it's one of the greatest awards a college athlete can get."

"We're right down the street from Hollywood. Anything can happen in Hollywood. Obviously, I'd love to win. All year it's been in my mind frame, but it's out of my control."

Bush's résumé is packed with big plays.

He caught three touchdown passes from Leinart in a season-opening 24-13 victory over Sugar Bowl-bound Virginia Tech.

He returned punts for touchdowns at Washington State and Oregon State.

And he finished the season with a breathtaking performance against UCLA, rushing for a career-high 204 yards on 15 carries and scoring on runs of 65 and 81 yards.

To find out who won the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night, visit www.stripes.com.

"I guess I kind of shot up the voting polls," Bush said.

Bush, a 6-foot, 200-pounder, ranks fifth in the country in all-purpose yards, averaging 181.8 per game. He did so despite the fact that opposing teams did everything they could to kick the ball away from him and track his every move from scrimmage.

He rushed for 833 yards on 137 carries and six touchdowns; caught 41 passes for 478 yards and seven TDs; returned 23 punts for 369 yards and two scores, and returned 19 kickoffs for 501 yards.

His rushing numbers pale in comparison to Peterson, the other tailback among the finalists who has 1,843 yards.

Bush is about more than just numbers. He's a game-breaker.

"He's the most spectacular player I've ever seen in college football," Trojans tight end Alex Holmes said. "Teams gun for him, they change their whole defense. Every time he touches the ball, he has a chance to score. You can't say that about too many people."

Soft-spoken and studious off the field, Bush is much different when he's playing.

"On the field, I'm probably the exact opposite of that," he said. "I love all the attention. At the same time, I keep myself humble."

"Split personality, on and off the field."

The 19-year-old should be good at self-analysis, considering he's a psychology major on track to graduate in 3½ years.



Southern Cal sophomore Reggie Bush is fifth in the country with 181.8 all-purpose yards a game.

"A totally different person comes out on the field," he said. "Sometimes a good attitude, sometimes a bad attitude. Football brings out a whole different person in me."

Like last weekend against UCLA. At the end of his first long touchdown run, he somersaulted into the end zone and received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

"It wasn't anything I'd thought about before," he said. "It was just instinctive. I just did it. I wasn't trying to show off. It just happened."

The Trojans' wealth of talent limits Bush's opportunities. He averaged less than 11½ carries per game, compared to nearly 16 for teammate LenDale White, and fewer than 3½ receptions.

"I guess it's just the nature of the beast," Bush said.

"There's only one ball to go around. It can be frustrating. But we're winning. I think that just makes us that more dangerous, that we have other athletes and can spread the ball around."

He does make the most of those limited chances, averaging just under 10 yards per touch. Bush even threw a 52-yard TD pass against Arizona State.

"It's tough because of the situation we have here — he can only get the ball so much," Leinart said. "I think he will be a Heisman Trophy winner before he's gone. He deserves it."

"He's the best player in college."

James Madison reaches I-AA championship game

The Associated Press

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Justin Kascut threw for three touchdowns and James Madison turned four turnovers into touchdowns Friday night and beat William & Mary 48-26 in the NCAA Division I-AA semifinals.

The Dukes (12-2) avenged a last-play loss to the Tribe in the regular season and moved on to next weekend's national championship against Sam Houston State or Montana, who play Saturday in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Dukes, who won 14-13 at Lehigh in the first round on 14-13 at Furman to get to the semifinals, became the first team in I-AA to make it to the championship game by winning three consecutive road games.

William & Mary (11-3), which rallied from a 31-10 deficit to beat defending national champion Delaware in double overtime last weekend, fell behind 21-0, rode the passing of Lang Campbell to a 26-20 third-quarter lead, then turned the ball over twice after falling behind again.

Texas LB Johnson wins Butkus Award

ORLANDO, Fla. — Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson won the Butkus Award on Friday night as the nation's best linebacker.

Johnson is the first Texas player to win the award, beating out Ahmad Brooks of Virginia and Matt Groetogede of Southern California.

Johnson, who was a Butkus finalist last year as a junior, led the Longhorns this season with 128 tackles, 78 solo and 19 for loss. He also added two sacks, one interception and eight forced fumbles for No. 6 Texas, which faces No. 13 Michigan in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

Johnson has already been named the winner of the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, awarded to the nation's best defensive player. He was also a finalist for the Lombardi Award, given to the top college lineman. Georgia's David Pollack

won the Lombardi.

Named for NFL Hall of Fame linebacker Dick Butkus, the award is presented by the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando.

Stanford interviews Pittsburgh coach Harris

STANFORD, Calif. — Pittsburgh coach Walt Harris interviewed at Stanford on Friday for the school's coaching vacancy.

Stanford officials said Harris was on campus to meet with athletic director Ted Leland, who hired Harris as football coach at Pacific in 1989 when Leland was the AD there. Harris met with Leland two days after Southern California's coordinator Norm Chow visited to interview for the job.

Now that Leland has interviewed his top two candidates, a decision on Buddy Teevens' successor could come soon — perhaps by the end of the weekend. Teevens was fired Nov. 28 after three straight losing seasons.

Notre Dame assistant accepts coordinator position at Florida

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame defensive line coach Greg Mattison is leaving to join new Florida coach Urban Meyer, the man the Fighting Irish tried to hire last week to replace the fired Tyrone Willingham.

Mattison was hired Friday as the Gators co-defensive coordinator, and will be reunited with Meyer. The two were Notre Dame assistants under Bob Davie until 2001. Mattison will share the coordinator's job with Charlie Strong, who also worked at Notre Dame.

Colorado Mines QB Friehauf wins Harlon Hill Trophy

FLORENCE, Ala. — Colorado School of Mines quarterback Chad Friehauf won the Harlon Hill Trophy as the Division II college football player of the year on Friday night.

Friehauf, a senior from Brush, Colo., threw for 4,646 yards and 39 touchdowns in leading the Miners to their first ever playoff win and a 12-1 record. The Miners went 11-0 in the regular season.

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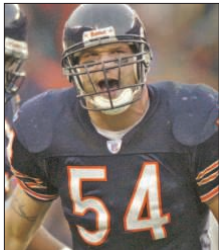
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SPORTS

Former Yankee Wells agrees to two-year, \$8 million deal with Red Sox, Page 30



Four-time Pro Bowler Brian Urlacher, above, said, "I like being out there with my teammates, I love practicing, I love being in the locker room. It's just, football is fun."

Urlacher draws comparisons with Butkus, Singletary

BY RICK GANO

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — During the summer before he went away to college at New Mexico, Brian Urlacher worked pipeline construction — 12-hour shifts in 100-degree heat for \$7 an hour.

Those long days of toil developed a toughness that hasn't wavered, even years later when Urlacher plays for millions as the middle linebacker of the Chicago Bears.

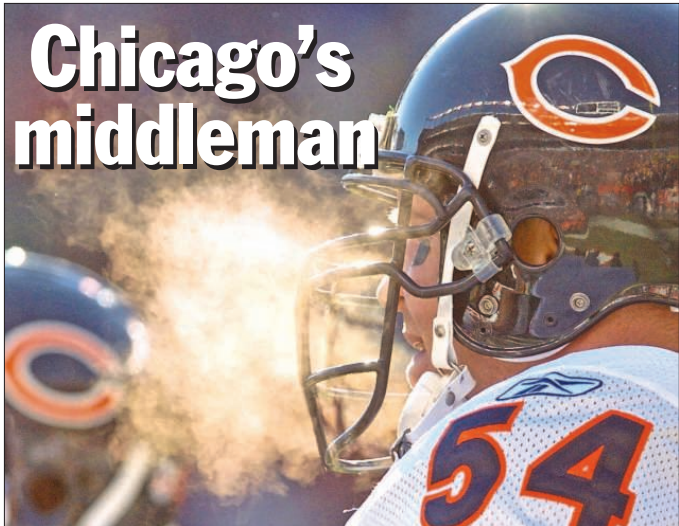
When his left calf swelled up like two grapefruits after a game Nov. 14, his foot went numb in the middle of the night and he needed surgery at 5 a.m. to relieve pressure from internal bleeding, doctors told him he'd be out 4-6 weeks.

Less than three weeks later, Urlacher was back on the field, playing his best game of the season: running side to side with a fury, intercepting a pass inside the 5-yard line, breaking up another pass, and making a sack among his 11 tackles to push the Bears to victory over the Minnesota Vikings last Sunday.

"It just healed better than they thought it could, I guess. I really don't know how to explain it," Urlacher said.

There is no need to explain just how much better the Bears are with Urlacher than without him. It's so obvious.

Chicago's middleman



Bears middle linebacker Brian Urlacher (54) has been selected to the Pro Bowl in each of his first four seasons. He's missed only four games in his NFL career — all Chicago losses and all of them this season. The Bears are 5-3 this season with him in the lineup.

Chicago is 5-3 when he's on the field, calling the defensive signals and inspiring his teammates to measure up. When he's been out this season — also missing two games with a hamstring injury that cost him the entire preseason — they're 0-4.

"When we are out on the field and it's a pressure situation, he will come out and

start joking around with you and let us know, 'Hey, it's a game and let's just do what we do,'" second-year linebacker Lance Briggs said.

"When he's not there, you feel like you have to be so much more sound. And when he's there, you have a guy who is going to make plays."



Linebacker Brian Urlacher (left), taking down Vikings QB Daunte Culpepper last Sunday, has 26½ sacks in 72 NFL games.

KRT

As a college safety and linebacker with speed and offensive skills, Urlacher was taken by the Bears in the first round of the 2000 draft out of New Mexico, one of the few colleges to show interest in him.

And after moving to middle linebacker in the third game of his rookie season, he's become an instant hit on and off the field. He was the 2000 Defensive Rookie of the Year.

He is now the face of the Bears, being talked about with great linebackers Dick Butkus and Mike Singletary. His No. 54 jersey has been one of the NFL's top sellers. He's made the Pro Bowl in each of his four seasons, a span in which he never missed a game because of injury.

That changed this year when he hurt his hamstring in the first practice of training camp, meaning he's spent a lot of the season rounding into shape while battling two injuries.

Urlacher has five sacks and one interception. He's also forced two fumbles, num-

SEE MIDDLEMAN ON PAGE 29

Stoudemire's 36 points, 15 rebounds lift league-leading Phoenix Suns to 17-3 record

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Enjoying magical seasons, Jets, Steelers cross paths in AFC showdown

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Southern Cal playmaker Bush is an uncommon Heisman Trophy finalist on many levels

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